皇なつきプロフィール

8月21日生まれの獅子座、O型。
大阪出身。
デビュー作は、「蛇姫御殿」。

装丁／納由希里

あすかコミックスDX

Rensen

恋泉

[れんせん]

花情曲余話

[はなのこえよわ]

Natsuki SUMERAGI

皇なつき

恋泉 花情曲余話 皇なつき

泣かない娘・銀華。
ある日、彼女のもとを六天という名の天界の護花使者が訪れる。
しだいに彼に心惹かれる銀華だったが、自分の前世を知り…。
牡丹の精にまつわる中国の神秘の世界を描いた、
皇なつきの珠玉の作品集。
同時収録「天網の疎」「花の薫る日」「狐媚」他。

ASUKA COMICS DX

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皇なつきの本

花情曲[はなのこえ]
恋泉 花情曲余話[れんせんはなのこえよわ]
梁山伯と祝英台[りょうさんぱくとしゅくえいだい]
李朝・暗行記[りちょうあんぎょうき]
燕京伶人抄[ペキンれいじんしょう]
燕京伶人抄 弐 女児情[ペキンれいじんしょうにじょじじょう]
黄土の旗幟のもと[こうとのきしのもと]

角川書店

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Rensen

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天網の疎

Heaven's Defective Web

Vacant?!
HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?!
I'VE BEEN LIVING HERE FOR THREE MONTHS!
WITH A COURTESAN NAMED SU LANG ..
THERE INDEED WAS A WOMAN WHO RENTED THIS PLACE FOR HALF A YEAR.
BUT SHE TOOK THE REST OF THE RENT AND LEFT LAST NIGHT!
...I'VE BEEN TRICKED!
BUT
SHE ASKED ME TO RUN AN ERRAND FOR HER, I ONLY LEFT YESTERDAY..
YOU GOT SWINDLED!
ha ha ha
THIS KIND OF THING HAPPENS ALL THE TIME! A HEARTLESS PROSTITUTE WRINGS HER VICTIM DRY AND THEN JUST UPS AND LEAVES!

*T/N See Extra's page

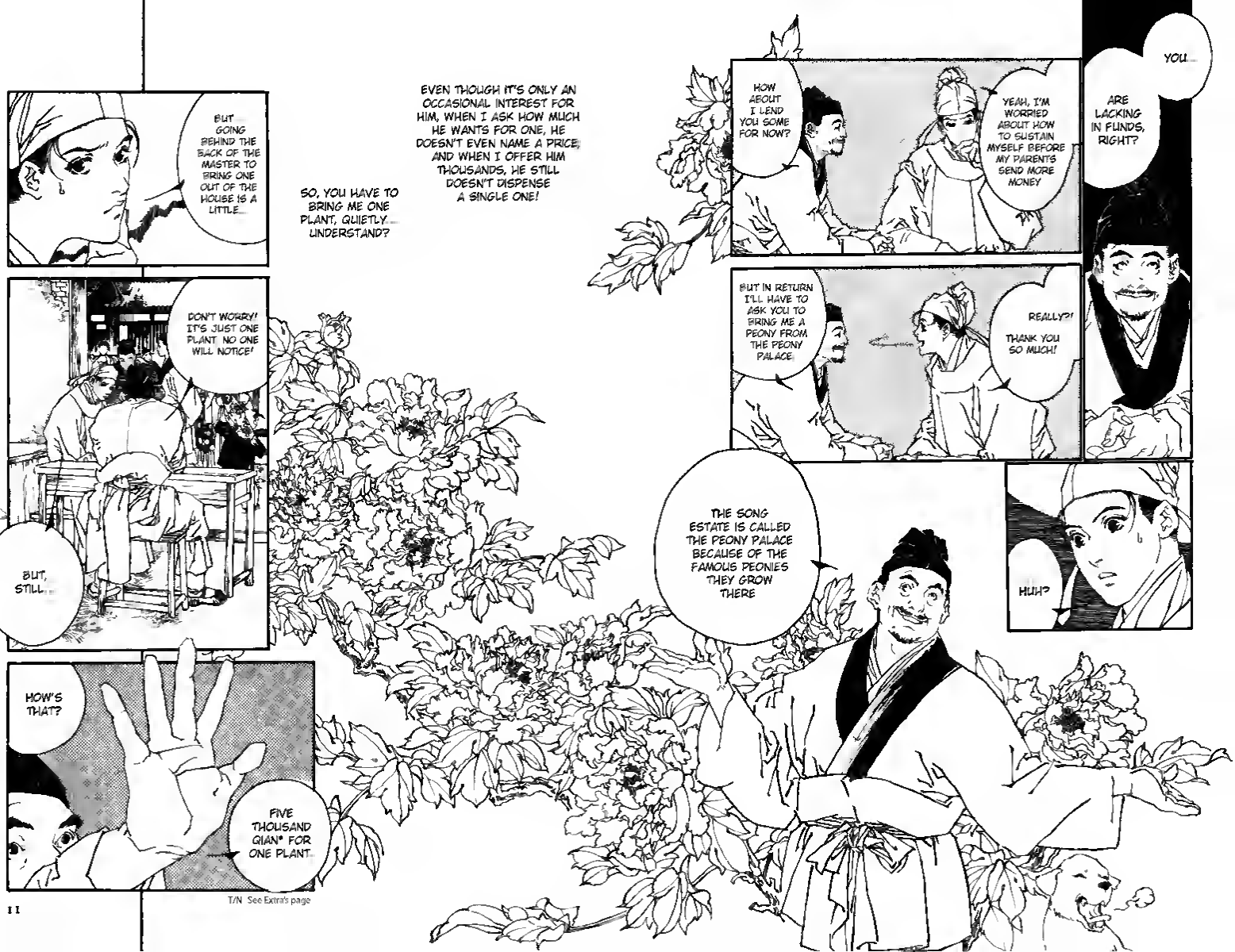
THAT'S RIGHT!
THE FELLOW I MET ON MY WAY HERE...
HE TOLD ME THAT IF I WERE TO RUN INTO ANY TROUBLE, I SHOULD GO AND FIND HIM.
I'LL GO AND ASK FOR HIS HELP!
I WAS SUPPOSED TO COME HERE FOR THE IMPERIAL EXAMINATIONS, BUT LOOKING AT THE SORRY STATE I'M IN, I DON'T EVEN HAVE ENOUGH DIGNITY LEFT TO FACE MY PARENTS BACK HOME
I ACTUALLY BELIEVED SU LANG'S WORDS WITHOUT QUESTIONING, SOLD MY SERVANT AND HORSE, LEAVING MYSELF WITHOUT ANY MONEY
BUT I'M STILL TOO IGNORANT!
EVEN THOUGH I ALREADY KNEW THAT CHANG'AN WAS A PLACE OF DECEIT AND AVARICE,
WHAT AM I TO DO...
HIS NAME WAS...
RIGHT! IT WAS SONG GUI XIANG!
YOU'VE ONLY FALLEN SHORT OF MAKING THE RANKS IN THE IMPERIAL EXAMS* ONCE OR TWICE, DON'T LET YOURSELF BE SO DEJECTED!
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THE SAYING "FIFTY YEAR OLDS WHO REACHES THE RANKS ARE STILL NOT LATE"? YOU STILL HAVE A LOT OF TIME LEFT!
...WAS SHE LYING ALL THAT TIME?
I ALSO WANT TO FIND A GOOD MAN, TO SETTLE DOWN WITH ONE DAY
IF I COULD FIND SOMEONE LIKE YOU TO DEPEND ON, THERE'S NOTHING ELSE I WOULD ASK FOR IN LIFE...

THAT'S VERY UNFORTUNATE...
THIS IS MY WIFE, DAI CHUN, AND MY LITTLE BROTHER-IN-LAW, RU CHUN.
DAI CHUN, THIS IS FAN TING LAN.
FEEL FREE TO STAY HERE WHILE YOU GATHER SOME FUNDS!
WELCOME, FAN-GONGZI*.
THANK YOU SO MUCH, SONG-XIONG*!

(T/N Gongzi is an honorific for a young man of some nobility.)

(T/N: "Xiong" means older brother. Xiong can be used to call a man of some acquaintance even though they're not related by blood.)

SORRY FOR THE BOTHER, SONG-FUREN*.
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN...
(T/N: Furen is used to address married women and can mean lady, madam, or Mrs.)
ARE THERE ANY GOODS THAT ARE GOING TO HENAN? I WANT SOMEONE TO TAKE A LETTER THERE.
ME? I'M CURRENTLY IMPOSING UPON SONG GUI XIANG, STAYING IN HIS HOUSE IN THE CHONG XIAN QUARTER.
SONG GUI XIANG OF THE CHONG XIAN QUARTER?
OH! THAT SCHOLAR'S HOUSE!
DO YOU KNOW HIM?
HE'S PRETTY FAMOUS!
OH...


BUT... GOING BEHIND THE BACK OF THE MASTER TO BRING ONE OUT OF THE HOUSE IS A LITTLE...
SO, YOU HAVE TO BRING ME ONE PLANT, QUIETLY... UNDERSTAND?
EVEN THOUGH IT'S ONLY AN OCCASIONAL INTEREST FOR HIM, WHEN I ASK HOW MUCH HE WANTS FOR ONE, HE DOESN'T EVEN NAME A PRICE, AND WHEN I OFFER HIM THOUSANDS, HE STILL DOESN'T DISPENSE A SINGLE ONE!
HOW ABOUT I LEND YOU SOME FOR NOW?
YEAH, I'M WORRIED ABOUT HOW TO SUSTAIN MYSELF BEFORE MY PARENTS SEND MORE MONEY
YOU... ARE LACKING IN FUNDS, RIGHT?
BUT IN RETURN I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO BRING ME A PEONY FROM THE PEONY PALACE.
REALLY?! THANK YOU SO MUCH!
DON'T WORRY! IT'S JUST ONE PLANT. NO ONE WILL NOTICE!
BUT, STILL...
THE SONG ESTATE IS CALLED THE PEONY PALACE BECAUSE OF THE FAMOUS PEONIES THEY GROW THERE
HUH?
HOW'S THAT?
FIVE THOUSAND QIAN* FOR ONE PLANT.

T/N See Extra's page

FIVE THOUSAND QIAN?
FIVE...
THE FIVE THOUSAND QIAN, AS PROMISED, HERE THEY ALL ARE IN ORDER, RIGHT?
WHAT A GOOD DEAL! I CAN EASILY FETCH UP TO TEN TIMES THE PRICE I PAID HIM IF I SOLD IT TO SOME BOTANY HOBBYIST!
THE PEONY PLANTED HERE IS GONE!!
RU CHUN WHAT'S WRONG?
NN SISTER,

HEY! FRIEND!
BUT, JUST THAT LITTLE PLANT IS WORTH FIVE THOUSAND... AND HE ASKED ME TO STEAL IT,
IS THIS HOW THINGS ARE IN THE CAPITAL?
HEAVY
MY SHOULDER HURTS
HOW COULD I DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS
THERE'S A PRETTY GOOD PLACE OVER THERE, WANNA COME ALONG?
WHO'S THIS?
SITTING HERE DAZING, YOUR MONEY'S GOING TO BE GONE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT
LOOK AT THIS DROWSY FACE OF YOURS!
HA! I SHOULD ALSO LEARN TO BE STREETWISE, THAT WAY I DON'T ALWAYS END UP WITH THE SHORT END OF THE STICK..
WHAT THE HELL, THEY JUST WANTED ME TO PICK UP THE BILL!
BOSS! BRING UP SOME GOOD WINE!
DON'T WORRY! OUR FRIEND HERE HAS PLENTY OF MONEY!

SO YOU ARE ALSO CANDIDATES FOR THE IMPERIAL EXAMINATIONS!
I AM AS WELL THIS JANUARY WAS THE FIRST TIME I LEFT HOME TO SIT FOR THE EXAMS.
TOO BAD I DIDN'T PASS...
SO I'M MAKING CHANG'AN MY TEMPORARY ABODE FOR THE SUMMER, TO PREPARE FOR NEXT YEAR'S EXAMS.
I'M ALSO TAKING MY SUMMER BREAK HERE!
THEN HAVE YOU FINISHED PREPARING YOUR PIECES?
WHAT PIECES?
PIECES FOR YOUR PORTFOLIO!
PORTFOLIO? WHAT'S A PORTFOLIO?

HAHOOO
DON'T BE STUPID, ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE HERE FOR THE EXAMS?
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT A PORTFOLIO IS?
I've GOT laughed at
OFFER UP POEMS AND PROSE YOU'VE WRITTEN TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
THIS SO CALLED PORTFOLIO IS SOMETHING YOU USE TO MARKET YOURSELF.
SO TO PROMOTE YOUR TALENTS, AND HAVE THEM INTRODUCE YOU TO THE EXAMINERS!
ONCE YOU'VE GAINED SOME REPUTATION FOR THIS KIND OF THING, THE WORLD OF THESE EXAMINATIONS WILL BE OPENED UP TO YOU. SOMETIMES THE QUALITY OF THE PORTFOLIO CAN DETERMINE THE RESULTS OF THE EXAMS EVEN BEFORE YOU TAKE THEM!
我見黃河水
凡經金摩清
水流如激
T/N See Extras page

GOOD THING IT'S AUTUMN RIGHT NOW..
IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S THE GOLDEN TIME FOR CREATING POETRY FOR YOUR PORTFOLIO.
OH... I DIDN'T KNOW.
BUT, I'M REALLY AFRAID OF WRITING AND RECITING POETRY...
THIS GUY IS SUCH AN IDIOT
IF YOU'RE AFRAID OF WRITING POETRY, YOU MAY NEVER BE ABLE TO MAKE IT INTO THE RANKS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE IN THIS LIFETIME.
R-REALLY?
AAAH... I REALLY WISH WE CAN TAKE THE EXAM SOON!
THAT WAY, PEOPLE WILL SEE US DIFFERENTLY.
GIVE THE PEOPLE WHO LOOKED DOWN ON US A LITTLE TASTE OF THEIR OWN MEDICINE...

LATER COMERS HAVE A THREE DRINK PENALTY!
HEY! CHENG-GONGZI, YOU MADE IT!
THAT'S TRUE! IF I MAKE IT INTO IMPERIAL CIVIL SERVICE, I COULD THROW MY WEIGHT AROUND A LITTLE IN FRONT OF THAT PROSTITUTE SU LANG.
NEXT TIME, NO MATTER HOW, I HAVE TO PASS THE EXAM ...!
GIVE ME A MOMENT, MY FELLOW BROTHERS!
I ADMIT I'M LATE, BUT I BROUGHT SOMETHING GOOD TO COMPENSATE!

* See Extra's page

Those who met of like mind are wont to drink.
With their horses tied to the willows near the edifices.
(相逢意氣為君飲)
(繫馬高樓垂柳邊)
Ten thousand decanters of beautiful wine lies in Xin Feng.
Many of the adventurers of Xian Yang are youth
(新豐美酒斗十千)
(咸陽遊俠多少年)
WHAT A GREAT POEM...
A GREAT POEM
I CAN'T EXPECT ANYTHING LESS FROM SONG GUI XIANG!
Wow! THAT'S AWESOME!
SONG...
GUI XIANG?
THIS IS SONG-XIONG'S NEW WORK.
IT WASN'T EASY TO CONVINCE HIM, BUT I MANAGED TO BRING US THIS NEW PIECE!
QUICK, LET'S HEAR IT!
GOOD WORK!
CAN I BOTHER YOU TO SING US THIS, LOVE?
OF COURSE.

UGH... WHERE DID I PUT THAT THING?
THIS... ISN'T IT EITHER
SONG-XIONG
HNN?
AH, THAT'D BE GREAT.
NEED ANY HELP?
OTHER THAN READING GOOD POEMS FROM THE PAST AND PRESENT, IS THERE REALLY ANYTHING ELSE TO BE DONE?
HOW DO I SAY THIS...
WHAT SHOULD I DO TO BE ABLE TO WRITE GOOD POETRY?

Absolutely...
TO WRITE A GOOD POEM IN A DAY'S WORK IS VERY DIFFICULT TO DO!
...depressed
Yeah!
ISN'T THERE A SHORTCUT...
WELL...
YOU ARE?
THE GUY FROM THE RESTAURANT
THIS IS MY GUEST, FAN TING LAN, FAN-GONGZI
BROTHER-IN-LAW! CHENG-GONGZI'S HERE.
OH, YOU'RE HOME AFTER ALL!

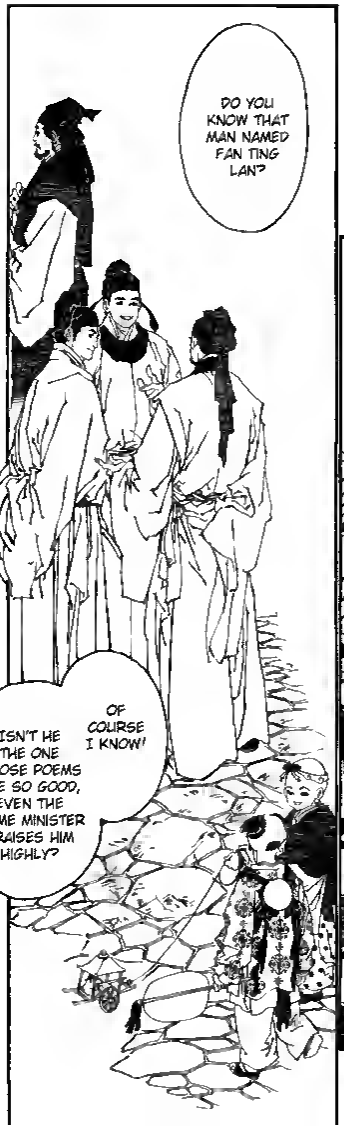
WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU DOING?
.....
THE EPITAPH THAT ZHAO-GONGZI COMMISSIONED ME FOR HIS UNCLE...
I DON'T KNOW WHERE I'VE PUT THE DRAFT.
EVEN CHENG-GONGZI MADE FUN OF YOU LAST TIME
HE SAID THAT YOU ALONE "DROVE UP THE PRICES OF PAPER IN LUO YANG"!
YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE THIS!
FILLING THE HOUSE WITH STACKS OF PAPER AS HIGH AS MOUNTAINS!

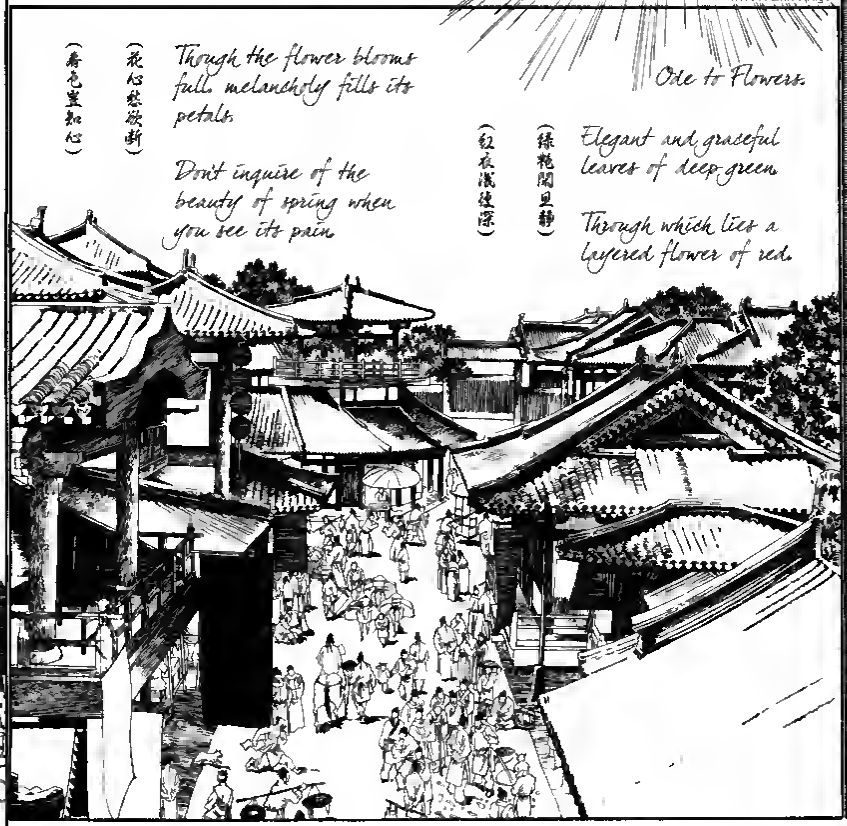
LITTLE BROTHER, YOU'RE MISTAKEN.
WHAT I SAID DIDN'T MEAN THAT YOUR BROTHER-IN-LAW BOUGHT TOO MUCH PAPER, BUT THAT EVERYONE'S FIGHTING TO BUY PAPER JUST SO THEY CAN MAKE COPIES OF YOUR BROTHER-IN-LAW'S WORK, THUS MAKING LUO YANG'S PAPER EXPENSIVE.
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT, NEVER ALLOWING YOUR OWN WORK TO BE PUBLICIZED.
IT'S MAKING ALL OF CHANG'AN'S LOVERS OF POETRY WORRY AND BE IMPATIENT
YOU'RE MAKING TOO MUCH OF MY SKILLS. MY POEMS AREN'T GOOD ENOUGH TO BE PUBLICIZED
PLUS, I LEAVE MY POEMS EVERYWHERE, AFTER A WHILE, I'VE PRETTY MUCH FORGOTTEN WHAT I'VE WRITTEN
HMMM...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THERE'S ACTUALLY PEOPLE AS RICHLY GIFTED AS HE IS!
HE'S OBVIOUSLY TALENTED, BUT HE DOESN'T WANT AN OFFICIAL POST.
NOT ONLY IS HE MARRIED TO A BEAUTIFUL FLOWER OF A WOMAN, BUT HE'S GOT PEONIES THAT ARE WORTH THOUSANDS!
AAH! THIS WORLD IS SO UNFAIR!
twinkle

SO MANY DRAFTS...
LOOKS LIKE GUI XIANG'S WORK. LEFT AROUND IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...
ODE TO FLOWERS*...?
HAHA! HE WROTE THIS COMPARING HIS WIFE TO THE FLOWERS.
BUT, THIS POEM IS REALLY BEAUTIFUL...
THAT'S RIGHT...!

T/N: See Extras page

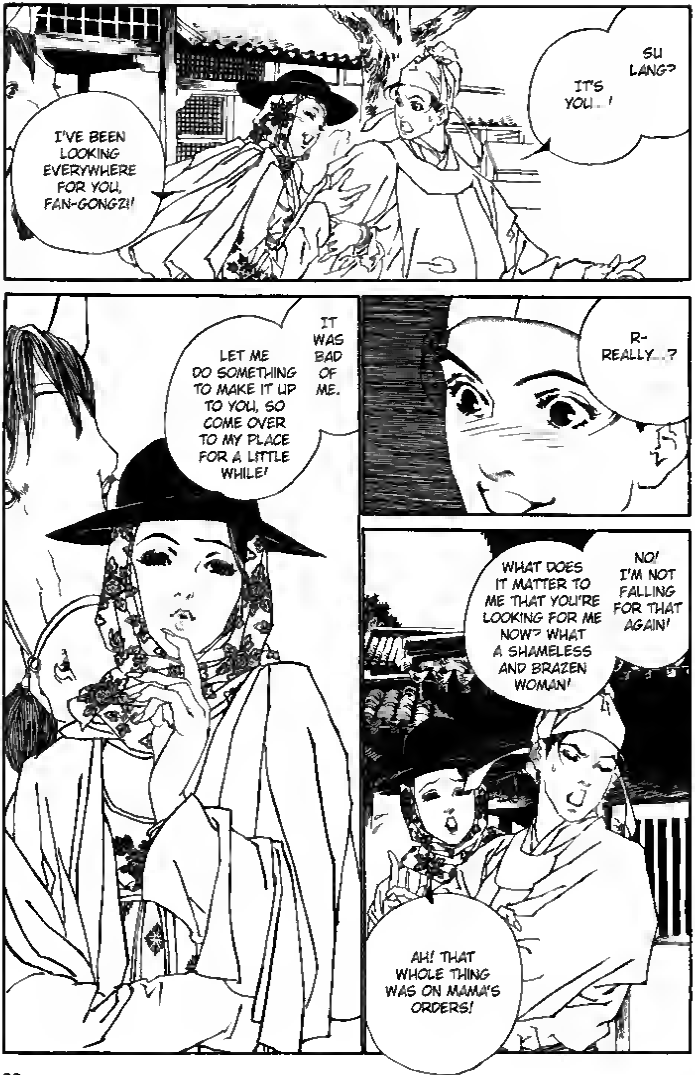

DO YOU KNOW THAT MAN NAMED FAN TING LAN?
OF COURSE I KNOW!
ISN'T HE THE ONE WHOSE POEMS ARE SO GOOD, EVEN THE PRIME MINISTER PRAISES HIM HIGHLY?


Ode to Flowers.
Though the flower blooms full melancholy fills its petals.
Don't inquire of the beauty of spring when you see its pain.
Elegant and graceful leaves of deep green.
Through which lies a layered flower of red.
(花心愁欲断)
(寿色堂知心)
(绿艳闻旦静)
(红衣浅复深)

T/N See Extra's page

GUI XIANG-XIONG DOESN'T KNOW WHERE HE'S LEFT HIS OWN DRAFTS, AND HIS POEMS ARE RARELY MADE PUBLIC,
IF THIS IS THE CASE, IT WOULDN'T MATTER MUCH IF I JUST BORROWED ONE OF HIS POEMS FOR MY PORTFOLIO.

I HEARD THAT WHEN HE TOOK HIS PORTFOLIO TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S PALACE, THE PRIME MINISTER WAS ABOUT TO TAKE A BREAK
BUT WHEN HE FINISHED RECITING THE POEM, THE CHANCELLOR QUICKLY DRESSED HIMSELF AND INVITED HIM INSIDE, GIVING HIM THE TREATMENT OF AN HONORED GUEST!
THIS FAN FELLOW SURE IS SOMETHING!
I REALLY WANT TO MEET HIM SOMEDAY!
Heh heh
IT WORKED EXTREMELY WELL.
THIS WAY, I'VE GOT SOME HOPE FOR THE NEXT EXAM!
FAN-GONGZI~~~ ♡

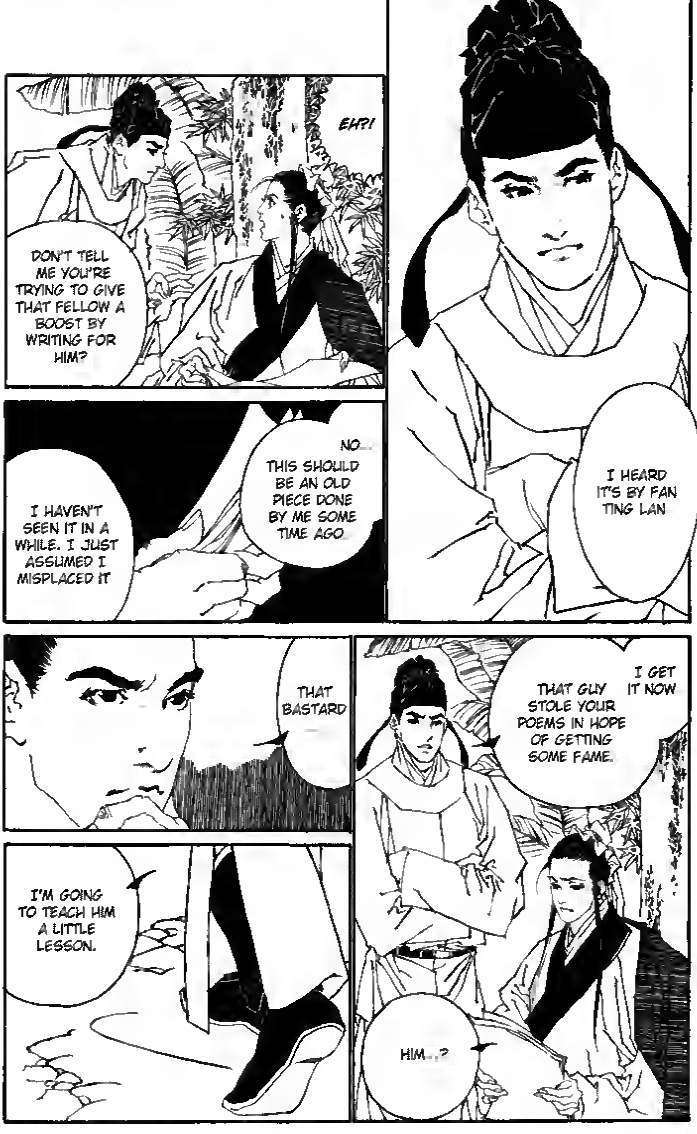

I'VE BEEN LOOKING EVERYWHERE FOR YOU, FAN-GONGZI!
IT'S YOU...!
SU LANG?
IT WAS BAD OF ME.
LET ME DO SOMETHING TO MAKE IT UP TO YOU, SO COME OVER TO MY PLACE FOR A LITTLE WHILE!
R-REALLY...?
NO! I'M NOT FALLING FOR THAT AGAIN!
WHAT DOES IT MATTER TO ME THAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR ME NOW? WHAT A SHAMELESS AND BRAZEN WOMAN!
AH! THAT WHOLE THING WAS ON MAMA'S ORDERS!

PLEASE SIT DOWN AND LET ME POUR YOU A DRINK
SU LANG! IS THIS THE FAMOUS AND TALENTED FAN-GONGZI?
TO BE ABLE TO MEET YOU IS AN HONOR!
SLOW DOWN!
DON'T GET TOO CLOSE TO MY MAN, SISTERS!
FUNNY HEARING THIS KIND OF TALK FROM YOU, SU LANG
I WON'T TAKE IT TO HEART!
JUST A WHILE AGO, YOU WERE STILL BRAGGING ABOUT MAKING A KILLING OFF OF A STUPID FAT LAMB
BUT SU LANG NEEDS TO PROPERLY THINK ABOUT HER ACTIONS

THE ONES WHO GIVE UP AFTER SPENDING ALL OF THEIR CASH, THEY ARE NOTHING WITHOUT THEIR MONEY, THEY CAN'T EVEN PROGRESS FORWARD!
THOSE KIND ARE THE WORST, DON'T YOU AGREE, FAN-GONGZI?
HEY HEY HEY! WE'RE NOT GOLD DIGGERS!
WE'LL SACRIFICE OURSELVES FOR TALENTED MEN, EVEN IF THEY'RE FLAT BROKE!
That's right, that's right
ALL YOU GIRLS KNOW HOW TO DO IS JUDGE A MAN BY THE AMOUNT OF COIN HE'S GOT,
FROM NOW ON, TRY TO LEARN AND JUDGE HIM BY HIS INNER QUALITIES.
OF COURSE, FOR ME TO PASS UP SOMEONE AS TALENTED AS YOURSELF,
THAT'S MY FAULT FOR NOT BEING ABLE JUDGE CLEARLY...

FAN-GONGZI! SOME OF MY REGULAR CUSTOMERS WANT TO MEET WITH YOU.
IF YOU HAVE ANY FREE TIME AT ALL, DO YOU MIND SEEING THEM?
I'M GOING TO TELL MY SISTERS ALL ABOUT MEETING YOU TODAY!
HAHA..
THIS IS GREAT!

OH, WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK ALL SERIOUS...
LOOK AT THIS! DO YOU REMEMBER THIS AT ALL?
SONG
WHERE DID YOU GET THIS?
THIS IS THE POEM THAT EVERYONE'S RACING TO RECITE DOWN AT THE FORUM.
THIS IS... MY POEM.
JUST AS I THOUGHT ...


EHP!
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE TRYING TO GIVE THAT FELLOW A BOOST BY WRITING FOR HIM?
I HEARD IT'S BY FAN TING LAN.
NO... THIS SHOULD BE AN OLD PIECE DONE BY ME SOME TIME AGO.
I HAVEN'T SEEN IT IN A WHILE. I JUST ASSUMED I MISPLACED IT
I GET IT NOW
THAT GUY STOLE YOUR POEMS IN HOPE OF GETTING SOME FAME.
THAT BASTARD...
I'M GOING TO TEACH HIM A LITTLE LESSON.
HIM...?

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
DO YOU EVEN HAVE TO ASK? I'M GOING TO REVEAL THE TRUTH TO EVERYONE!
NO! YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
WHY NOT!
IF THIS IS MADE KNOWN, HE'D BE LOOKED DOWN UPON WITH SCORN BY EVERYONE...
THAT'S RETRIBUTION!
YOU'RE THE VICTIM HERE! AREN'T YOU ANGRY?

ANGER IS ANGER...
BUT I DON'T THINK HE'S THAT BAD OF A PERSON
HE MUST HAVE STRAYED FOR A MOMENT
BURNING THE MIDNIGHT OIL EVEN WHEN WE WERE CHILDREN, DAY AFTER DAY, BEYOND STUDYING WAS MORE STUDYING...
YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH IT TOO, YOU KNOW HOW MUCH HARDSHIPS WE'VE BEEN THROUGH IN ORDER TO PASS THE EXAMS.
HOW MANY TIMES DID WE WISH THAT WE COULD ACHIEVE A TITLE EARLY IN HOPES OF NOT BEING CRITICIZED BY OTHERS, OR BECOME UTTERLY DEFEATED BY THE WAY PEOPLE LOOK AT US?

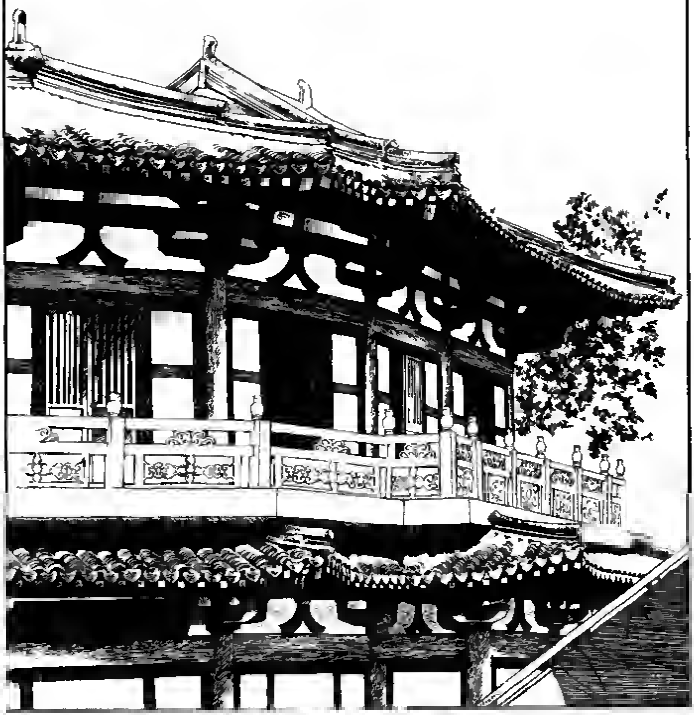
YOU'VE GOT A POINT...
AND IT WAS YOUR POEM ANYWAY.
HE MUST FEEL THE SAME...
...I'VE GOT AN IDEA.
SO YOU C'N'T LET THIS THING GET OUT THERE.
NOT ONLY WILL IT PRESERVE HIS DIGNITY, IT'LL GET HIM TO REPENT,
PLUS, YOUR POEMS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC..
IT'S TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE!

(醉殺長安輕薄兒) Yet the wine alone can drown these frivolous men in Changan

(笙歌日暮能留客) The songs sung from morning to night bids one to stay,

(含花醞酒解醍醐) Coupled with wine and food to awaken one from stupor,

(紅粉当壚細柳垂) The girls selling wine seem like weak willow saplings.



I'M NOT INTERESTED IN OTHER PEOPLE'S POETRY...!
THE EXAMINEE WHO RECENTLY HAD A BOUT OF FAME WITH HIS POEMS! HAVEN'T YOU HEARD?
OOOH,
IT'S THE POEM FROM LIU-GONGZI!
WHO?
RIGHT.
WHAT A SHAME!
EVERY ONE OF HIS POEMS IS EXCELLENT!
I COPIED DOWN SOME OF HIS POEMS, HAVE A LOOK!

THERE'S NO NEED!
SAY, MY LOVE,
WHAT'S THIS LIU-GONGZI LIKE?
WHAT'S HE DOING?

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A LITTLE CURIOUS?
AH! IT'S NOT HIS FAULT THAT HE'S SO TALENTED THAT EVERYONE KNOWS HIS NAME!
OF ALL THE PEOPLE WHO COME THROUGH HERE, NO ONE HAS EVEN SEEN HIM!
WHAT, EVEN YOU ARE ALL LIU-GONGZI THIS AND LIU-GONGZI THAT!
HOW I WANT TO MEET HIM JUST ONCE, AND HAVE HIM WRITE A POEM IN MY HONOR...
AH HA... LIU-GONGZI IS SO ADMIRABLE!
SO I THOUGHT, YOU BEING A FELLOW POET AND ALL, MUST'VE SEEN HIM...
DON'T JUST TALK ABOUT OTHER MEN IN FRONT OF ME!
WHO'S SEEN HIM?!

WHY HAVEN'T YOU WRITTEN A SINGLE POEM RECENTLY?
HOW CAN YOU BLAME ME...
YOU'RE THE ONE BEING BORING AS HELL LATELY!
WHATEVER, IT'S UP TO YOU
I-... I CAN'T SHOW MY POEMS TO THE WORLD BEFORE THEY'RE PERFECTED WORD FOR WORD!
THEN WHAT WRONG IS IT HAVING THE WHOLE WORLD FOCUS THEIR ATTENTION ON LIU-GONGZI?

LOOK AT HIM, PUSHING OUT NEW PIECES ONE AFTER ANOTHER...
WHAT A KILLJOY!
NOT LONG AGO, EVERYONE WAS TALKING ABOUT ME DAY IN AND DAY OUT, ALL THE TOPICS REVOLVED AROUND ME...
I WAS JUST WONDERING WHY THE PEOPLE AROUND ME HAVE DECIMATED RECENTLY, SO THIS IS WHY!

AH! FAN-GONGZ!!
frozen
stiff
YOU'RE HERE ALL ALONE CONTEMPLATING YOUR NEW POEM?
WHAT A COINCIDENCE.
CHENG-GONGZ!
YOU'RE ASKING THE WRONG PERSON,
I'VE NEVER MET HIM.
SPEAKING OF WHICH...
ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH A MAN NAMED LIU SHENG?
I MIGHT AS WELL...
JUST TAKE GU XIANG'S DRAFTS THIS ONE LAST TIME...!
SINCE I'VE ALREADY COME THIS FAR,
THE INTERESTS OF THE WORLD ARE SO INCONSTANT!

EH?
REALLY
THEN, YOU'LL NEVER GET THE CHANCE TO SEE HIM
THE POEMS THAT LIU SHENG WROTE ...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
BECAUSE HE'S NEVER GOING TO BE ABLE TO SHOW HIS FACE AGAIN
THEY DON'T SEEM TO BE PENNED BY HIM
--IF I EXPLAIN TO EVERYONE ALL THE THINGS I KNOW

A LONG TIME AGO, THERE WAS A COLLECTION OF POEMS FROM AN UNKNOWN AUTHOR IN MY HOUSE, SITTING THERE FOR MANY YEARS.
IT SEEMED TO BE SOMEONE'S UNFINISHED DRAFTS DONE BEFORE HIS DEATH. BUT THERE WERE ACTUALLY SEVERAL VERY GOOD PIECES IN IT. HOWEVER, I WAS VERY SHORT OF FUNDS AT ONE TIME, SO I SOLD THE COLLECTION TO A STREET SIDE VENDOR SPECIALIZING IN OLD BOOKS.
OF COURSE, AFTER I SAW LIU SHENG'S POEMS, I FELT AS IF I'VE READ THEM SOMEWHERE BEFORE. EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE SOME PLACES WHERE HE CHANGED THE LANGUAGE TO A MORE MODERN SETTING, I DISCOVERED THAT ALL OF HIS POEMS ARE HIGHLY SIMILAR TO THOSE IN THE BOOK I SOLD!
WHEN SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENS I CAN'T HELP BUT SUSPECT THAT LIU SHENG BOUGHT THAT COLLECTION OF POEMS.
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
OF COURSE... WHAT DO YOU THINK?

YOU SHOULD TELL EVERYONE ABOUT THIS IMMEDIATELY!
THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
HOW CAN HE DO THIS KIND OF BASE AND SHAMELESS THING!
ALL THE ACCOLADE HE'S GOTTEN TILL NOW, JUST THINK, THE SAME AMOUNT OF CONTEMPT WILL BE HEAPED UPON HIM, BUT HE'S BROUGHT THIS UPON HIMSELF!
HAHAHA! HE THOUGHT HIS PLAN WAS SEAMLESS, THAT NO ONE WOULD KNOW
AS THE SAYING GOES, "THE NET OF HEAVEN IS WIDE, BUT NO-ONE ESCAPES"
TO TAKE SOMEONE ELSE'S HARD WORK AND CLAIM IT...

...FOR HIS OWN...
.....

AH, SUDDENLY I REMEMBERED SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO...

WHAT'S WRONG?

GULP
HGH.

EXCU-SE ME

WHAT HAPPENED..
THAT LIU SHENG... ISN'T HE EXACTLY LIKE ME?
WHO WAS I BERATING JUST NOW?
EVER SINCE I CAME TO CHANG'AN, EVERYTHING HAS GONE OFF COURSE
ESPECIALLY ME...!
HE LEFT THIS LETTER AND WENT.

I WANTED TO HEAR WHAT KIND OF EXCUSE HE'D MAKE FOR HIMSELF, BUT I DIDN'T THINK THAT HIS FACE WOULD TURN TO THAT SHADE OF GREEN WHEN I SPOKE TO HIM.
WHAT'S THIS? WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO WAS MOST ANGRY ABOUT THIS?
OH?
"I'M GOING HOME TO FURTHER MY STUDIES." ... EH?
MAYBE I WENT TOO FAR.
BUT, ISN'T THIS BETTER? NO ONE GOT HURT IN THE END. BUT THE SADDEST THING IS THAT THIS LIU SHENG FELLOW WE CONJURED UP WAS WRONGED FOR NO REASON
IF HE HAD THICKER SKIN, OR WAS A BIT MORE DEVIOUS, HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN FUN TO PLAY WITH FOR A WHILE
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD SUCH A STRONG SENSE OF JUSTICE
ME?
OF COURSE I DO, IT'S JUST THAT MY SKIN'S AS THICK AS THE NEXT PERSON, AND MY METHODS ARE A LITTLE MORE DEVIOUS THAN MOST

c-edits Wikipedia

Page 9-10

In imperial China, to become a bureaucrat or civil servant, one had to take the imperial examination. Any male adult, regardless of social status or wealth, could sit for the exam, and be admitted to the civil service if he passed. This paved the way for anyone including peasants to have an illustrious career as a high-ranking imperial official.

Page 13-14

Qian means cash. It was a unit of money in the Tang dynasty. It is also used as a unit of weight for commodities and coins, equivalent to ~3.8g.

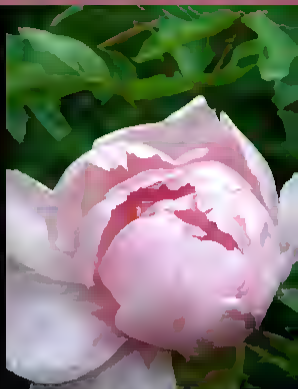
Credits pinmaltrek.com

Page 18

The poem featured in the bottom panel of this page is by the poet Huang Ting Jian (1045 - 1105), known as one of the Four Masters of Song Dynasty.

Page 21-22

The artist borrowed a poem from the Tang dynasty poet Wang Wei (699 -759), one of the most famous men of arts and letters of his time. The poem, roughly translated, is called The Adventures of Youth. It's one of four poems written about the young adventurers who wandered about and explored the country at the time.



Page 21-22
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Page 28
Ode to Flowers/Hana no Koe is the prequel to this series of manga, from which many of the characters in this particular story comes from.

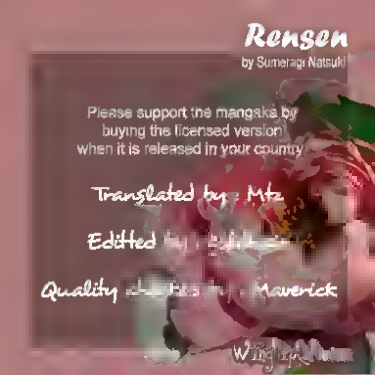
Page 29-30
The Ode to Flowers is actually a poem the author borrowed from Wang Wei. The original title of this poem in real life is Red Peony. Half translated from the original and half from a explanation of the poem in Chinese.

Page 38
This poem is borrowed from a Tang Dynasty poet named Jia Zhi (? – 772 AD), the original name of the poem is Two Thoughts on Spring, second excerpt

It was loosely translated from the literal words in the poem, I can't find any explanations of the poem online, in any of my sources. There are only explanations of the first excerpt, but none of the second. I suspect the mangaka took this one because it mentions Chang An, which is the city this all takes place in, and the fact that it's about a brothel, where a lot of the story takes place in.

HOW ARE YOU EXPECTING ME TO REPLY TO SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
HAHA!
THE NEXT TIME HE COMES TO CHANG'AN,
YOU REALLY HAVE TO COACH HIM WITH HIS POETRY, SONG!

END

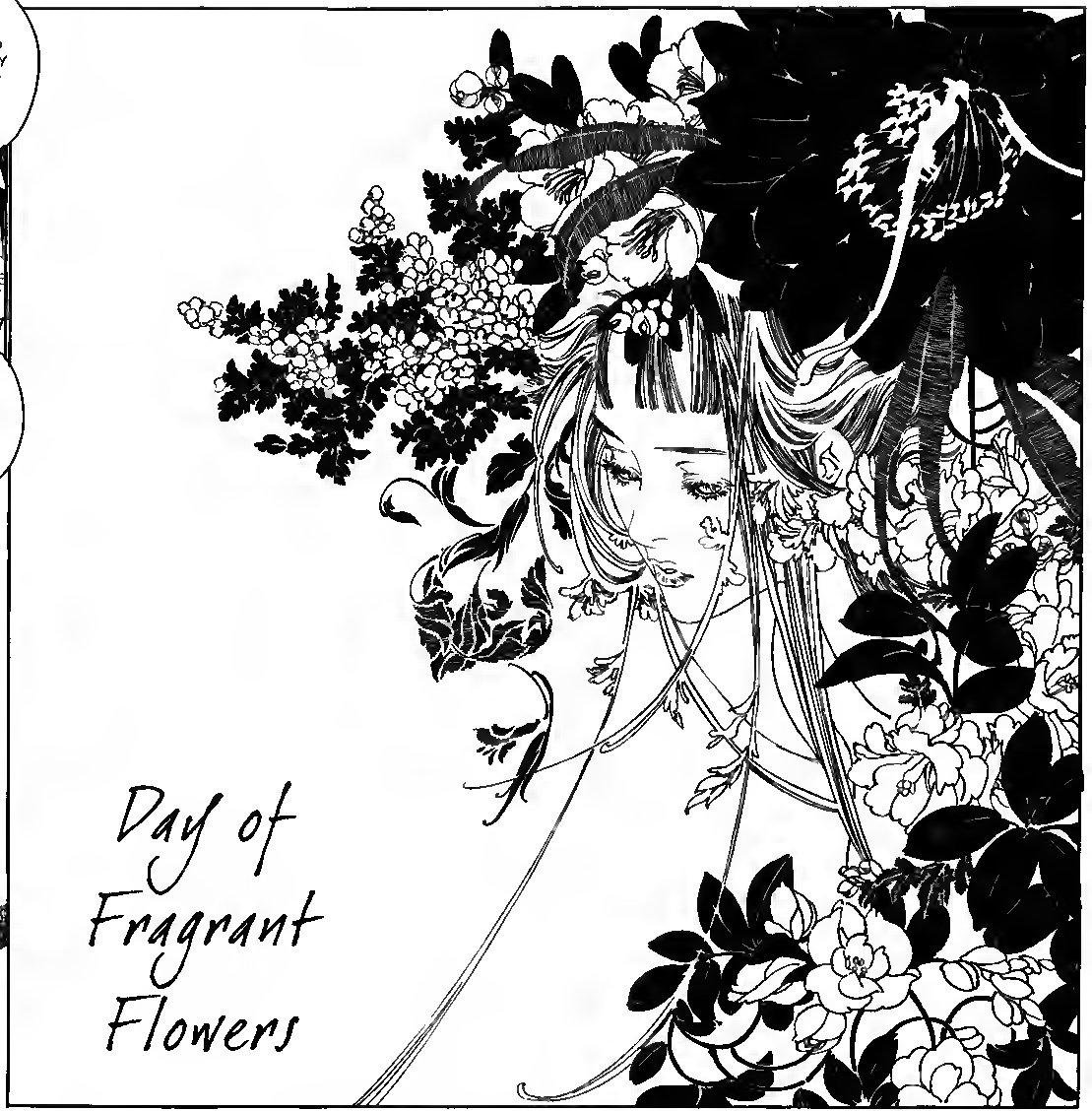

Rensen
by Sumeragi Natsuki
Please support the mangaka by
buying the licensed version
when it is released in your country
Translated by : Mtz
Edited
Quality
Maverick

AFTER
I DIE...
PLEASE BURY ME
IN THE EARTH

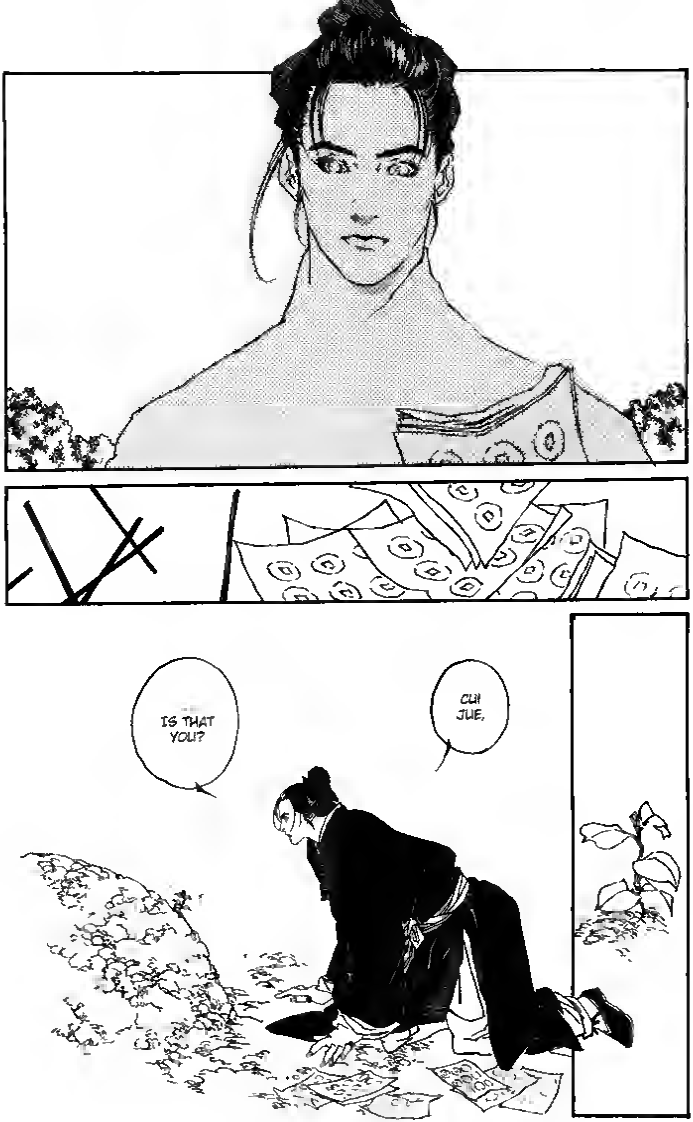
DON'T PUT ME IN A COFFIN,
LET ME SEEP INTO THE DIRT,
AND SLEEP FOREVER IN THE EARTH
SO THAT I CAN GO BACK TO THE GROUND
WHERE I USED TO LIVE...

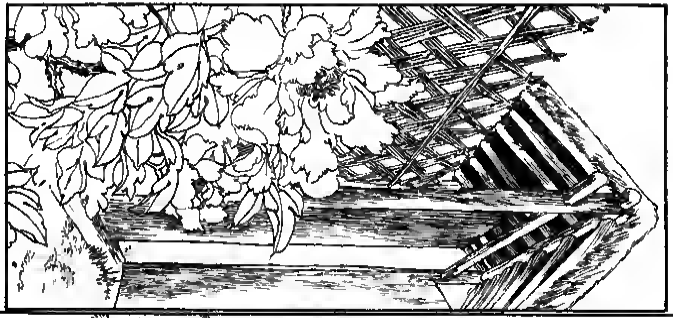
(T/N Chinese funerary practice includes the burning of representative money (e paper money since they were coins back then) The thought is that the money will be sent to the underworld and the deceased could use it)

WHAT HAPPENED TO QIU XIAN? WHY IS HE BUYING PAPER MONEY?
DIDN'T YOU HEAR? HIS WIFE PASSED AWAY.
HIS WIFE DIED!?
NO WONDER... I WAS THINKING WHY MY PLUM TREE HAD BLOSSOMED WHILE THAT BOTANY FANATIC'S HASN'T!
IT'S NOT JUST THAT, HE'S EVEN STOPPED SHOWING OFF HIS FLOWERS TO EVERYONE
PEOPLE CHANGE...



Day of Fragrant Flowers


IS THAT YOU?
CUI JUE,



QIU XIAN
HOHO, SONG-FUREN.

I'M HERE
IS THIS THE ONE?
NO, NOT THIS ONE
THIS LITTLE FLOWER SPROUT IS THE SAME AS THE FIRST TIME I SAW IT, IT HASN'T GROWN A SINGLE BIT!
AH THIS ONE IT HAS BEEN HERE EVEN BEFORE YOU WERE BORN
OH... THAT MEANS IT'S BEEN HERE FOR TWO HUNDRED YEARS ALREADY?
TWO HUNDRED YEARS?
SORRY, I MEANT TWENTY YEARS...
AH...
WHAT AN INTERESTING PERSON YOU ARE!

*A flower Dianthus chinensis.

QIU XIAN
WELL...
CAN YOU THINK OF ANYTHING THAT MIGHT HELP?
IT WAS TRANSPLANTED FROM THE MOUNTAINS, BUT I CAN'T GET IT TO ROOT PROPERLY
THE ONE I WANTED YOU TO LOOK AT WAS THIS CHINA PINK*.
WHY WON'T YOU JUST AGREE TO SELL IT?
QIU XIAN, JUST NAME YOUR PRICE
YOU AGAIN!
IF YOU'RE HERE ABOUT BUYING MY PROPERTY, THEN YOU CAN FORGET IT!
BECAUSE IT'S FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL AVID FLOWER LOVERS!
I SHOULD BE THE ONE ASKING YOU FOR LAND, ZHANGWEI-GONGZI!
THIS LITTLE COURTYARD OF MINE CAN'T EVEN COMPARE TO THE GARDEN YOU HAVE,
WHY DON'T YOU JUST DROP THE MATTER?

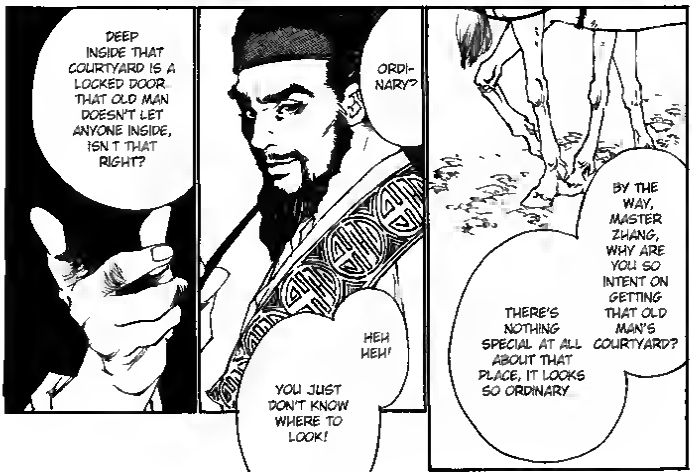
I MEAN LOOK THIS FLOWER HERE HAS EVEN WILTED BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO CARE FOR IT.
LET'S BE HONEST HERE, YOU'RE NOT A YOUNG MAN...
WHAT I WANT IS FOR YOU TO CARE FOR THIS PLACE FOR ME , AND HELP ME MANAGE THIS COURTYARD!
IF I OWNED THIS PLACE, I WOULD NOT KICK YOU OUT.
DON'T BE SO CERTAIN A LOT OF THE FLOWERS THRIVING HERE ARE ONES YOU'VE THROWN IN THE TRASH
I GOT THIS PLANT FROM YOUR GARDENER
OH, THAT CHINA PINK?
DON'T WORRY YOUR-SELF OVER IT!
IF IT CAN'T GROW IN MY GARDEN WHAT CHANCE IS THERE FOR IT TO GROW ELSE-WHERE..

YOU SHOULD CONTROL YOURSELF A LITTLE. DON'T UPROOT FLOWERS FROM THE MOUNTAINS IF YOU CAN'T TAKE CARE OF THEM
LISTEN HERE, OLD MAN... THOSE FLOWERS IN THE MOUNTAINS CAN BLOOM FOR YEARS WITHOUT ANYONE SEEING THEM, LETTING THEIR BLOSSOMS GO TO WASTE. YOU THINK THEY ARE BLESSED?
WHY NOT SHOW OFF THEIR BEAUTY TO THE WORLD FOR A YEAR? AREN'T THESE FLOWERS MORE BLESSED?
..
YOU DON'T GET IT AT ALL
I HOPE YOU DON'T LIVE TO REGRET IT ONE DAY...
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
QIU XIAN,
I'LL COME BACK TOMORROW.
OH!
DO MY EYES DECEIVE ME? ISN'T THIS SONG-FUREN FROM THE PEONY PALACE?

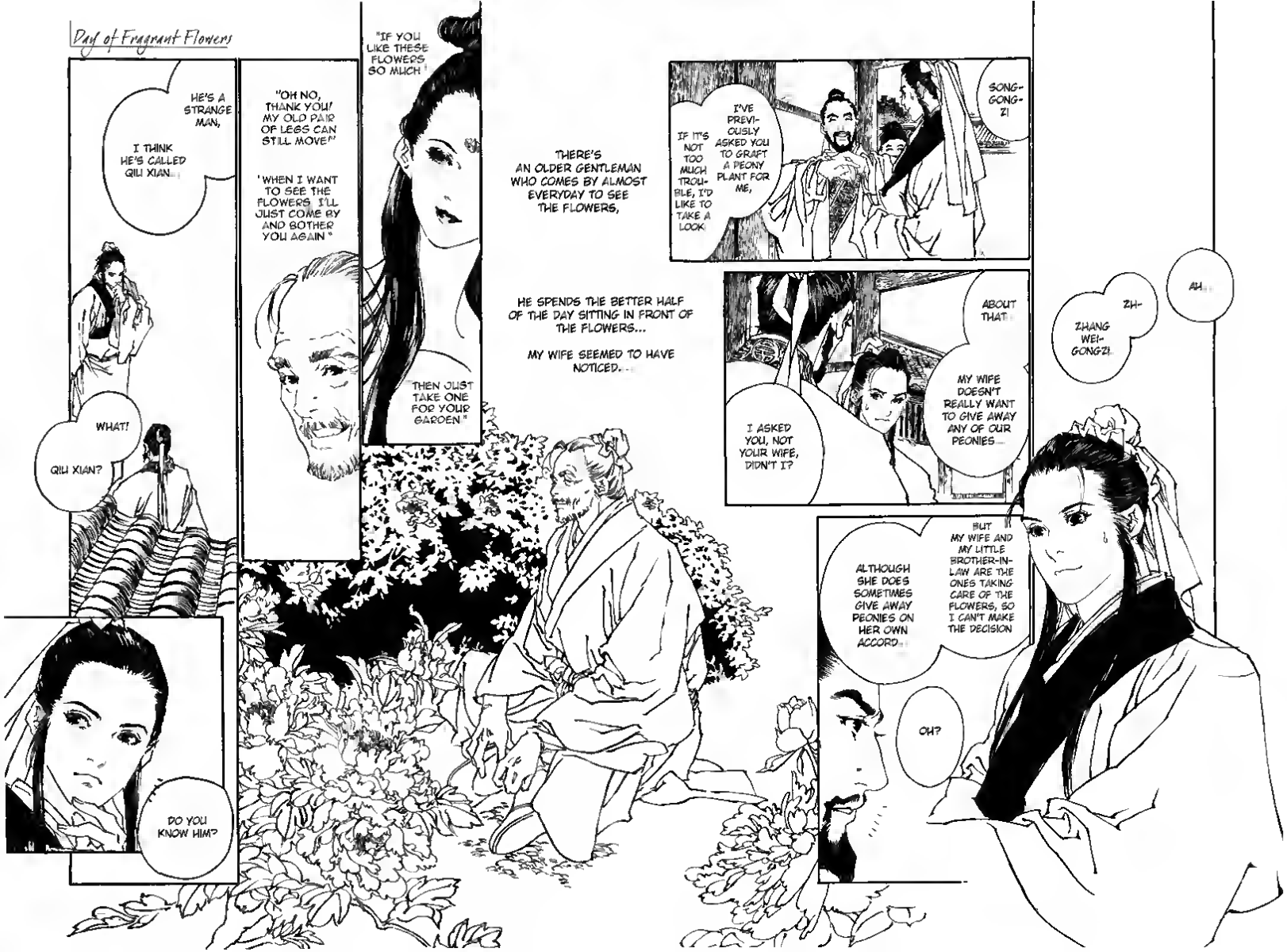
WE'RE FRIENDS
YOU KNOW THIS OLD MAN?
FRIENDS?
I'M JEALOUS!
IT MUST BE WONDERFUL TO BE CLOSE TO A BEAUTY SUCH AS YOURSELF, FUREN!
TRULY A ROSE IN BLOOM...
I'D BE HAPPY TO TRADE MY ENTIRE GARDEN FOR YOUR BEAUTY
SORRY, I DECLINE
WELL, MADAM,
WITH THIS, MAY I ASK TO BE YOUR FRIEND AS WELL?
WHAT A RUDE WOMAN!

NOT ONLY ARE YOU ONE OF THE RICHEST MEN IN CHANG'AN, IMPERIAL OFFICIALS WOULD BE HONORED TO MEET YOU, HOW DARE SHE ...
BE QUIET! IT'S NOT A BIG MATTER

WHAT A FORGIVING MAN YOU ARE!
YOU WOULDN'T TAKE THIS INSOLENCE IF IT WEREN'T FOR WANT OF THOSE PEONIES AT SONG-FUREN'S HOUSE,
OR ELSE YOU WOULDN'T HAVE...


DEEP INSIDE THAT COURTYARD IS A LOCKED DOOR. THAT OLD MAN DOESN'T LET ANYONE INSIDE, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
ORDI-NARY?
BY THE WAY, MASTER ZHANG, WHY ARE YOU SO INTENT ON GETTING THAT OLD MAN'S COURTYARD?
THERE'S NOTHING SPECIAL AT ALL ABOUT THAT PLACE, IT LOOKS SO ORDINARY...
HEH HEH!
YOU JUST DON'T KNOW WHERE TO LOOK!

AS LONG AS I KNOW SOMEONE HAS SOME RARE FLOWERS, I JUST HAVE TO GET MY HANDS ON IT, NO MATTER WHAT.
I KNOW IT'S NOT EXACTLY A COMMENDABLE QUALITY OF MINE, BUT THIS IS WHAT MAKES MY LOVE OF BOTANY SO EVIDENT, AND IT'S WHAT I PRIDE MYSELF IN.
WELL, I THINK HE MUST BE HIDING SOME RARE AND VALUABLE FLOWERS IN THERE, FOR SURE.
I HEARD THAT OLD FANATIC WAS ALL ABOUT COLLECTING RARE AND STRANGE FLOWERS WHEN HE WAS YOUNG.
WHAT SAY YOU?
OF COURSE!
THAT MUST BE WHY HE'S SO ADAMANT ABOUT NOT SELLING THAT PLACE.
EVEN THE GUARDIAN SPIRIT OF ALL THE FLOWERS IN THE WORLD WOULDN'T ACT ANY DIFFERENT.
OH, NO NO...
YOU FLATTER ME... HA HA HA...

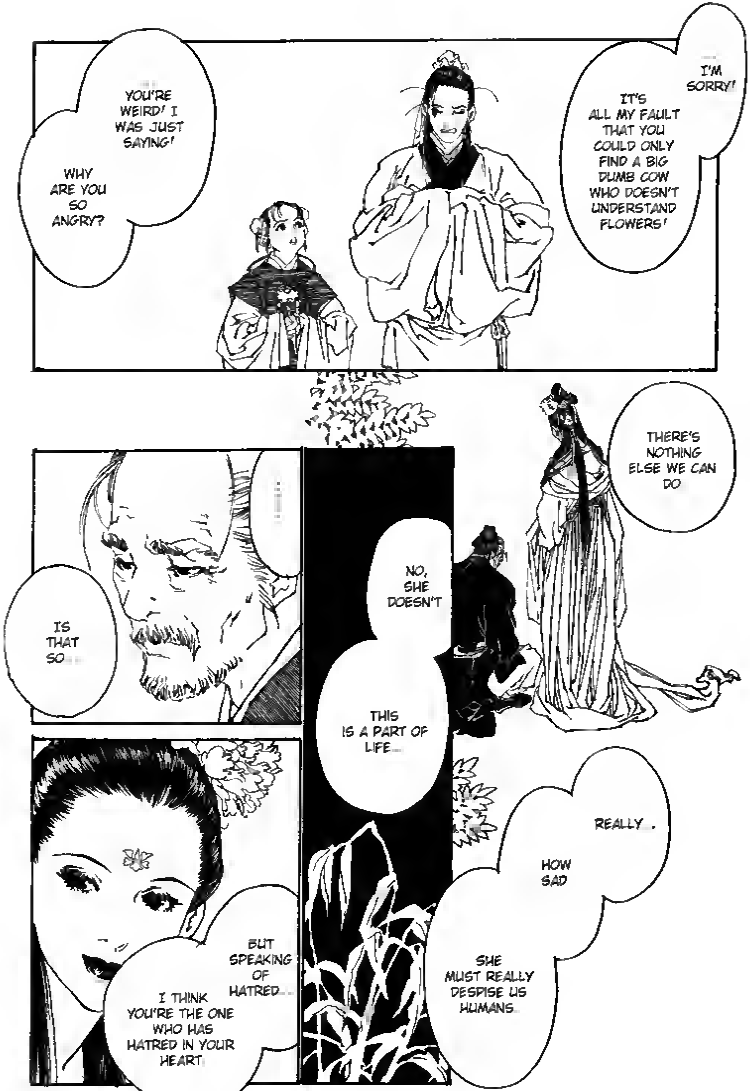

HE'S A STRANGE MAN,
I THINK HE'S CALLED QIU XIAN...
"OH NO, THANK YOU! MY OLD PAIR OF LEGS CAN STILL MOVE!"
"WHEN I WANT TO SEE THE FLOWERS, I'LL JUST COME BY AND BOTHER YOU AGAIN."
"IF YOU LIKE THESE FLOWERS SO MUCH!
THEN JUST TAKE ONE FOR YOUR GARDEN."
WHAT!
QIU XIAN?
DO YOU KNOW HIM?
THERE'S AN OLDER GENTLEMAN WHO COMES BY ALMOST EVERYDAY TO SEE THE FLOWERS,
HE SPENDS THE BETTER HALF OF THE DAY SITTING IN FRONT OF THE FLOWERS...
MY WIFE SEEMED TO HAVE NOTICED...
SONG-GONG-ZI
I'VE PREVIOUSLY ASKED YOU TO GRAFT A PEONY PLANT FOR ME,
IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TROUBLE, I'D LIKE TO TAKE A LOOK
I ASKED YOU, NOT YOUR WIFE, DIDN'T I?
ABOUT THAT...
MY WIFE DOESN'T REALLY WANT TO GIVE AWAY ANY OF OUR PEONIES...
AH...
ZH-
ZHANG WEI-GONG-ZI
ALTHOUGH SHE DOES SOMETIMES GIVE AWAY PEONIES ON HER OWN ACCORD...
BUT MY WIFE AND MY LITTLE BROTHER-IN-LAW ARE THE ONES TAKING CARE OF THE FLOWERS, SO I CAN'T MAKE THE DECISION
OH?

YESTERDAY, I HAPPENED TO MEET YOUR WIFE WHILE VISITING QIU XIAN...
THAT WOMAN... WHAT THE HELL IS SHE THINKING?
AH, YES
SHE'S GONE THERE TODAY AS WELL
THAT'S HOW IT SEEMS TO BE
YEAH...
SHE'D GIVE FLOWERS TO QIU XIAN BUT SHE WOULDN'T GIVE ANY TO ME?
THEY SEEM TO BE GETTING ALONG GREAT.
EVER SINCE THAT DAY, QIU XIAN WOULD COME BY TO DISCUSS FLOWERS WITH HER...
HUH?
. THAT YOUR WIFE AND QIU XIAN HAVE SOME KIND OF SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP!...?
COULD IT BE...

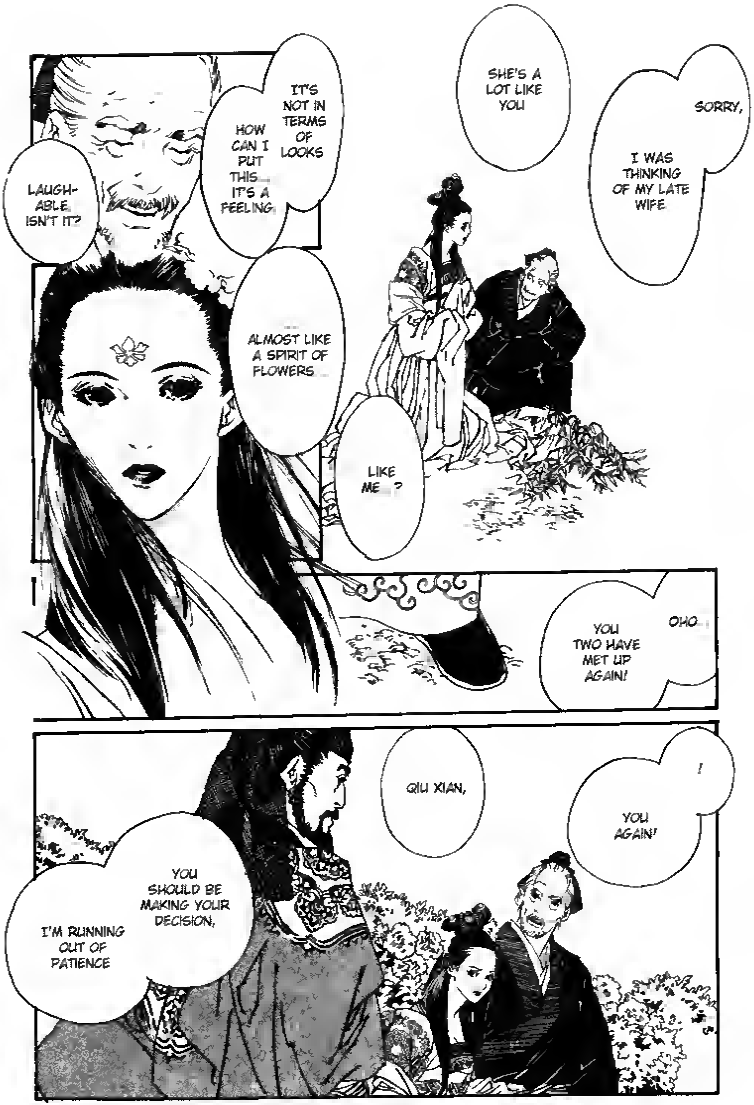
LOOKS LIKE HIS WIFE'S GOT THAT IDIOT WHIPPED.
EVERY TIME HE OPENS HIS MOUTH IT'S "MY WIFE" THIS AND "MY WIFE" THAT, JUST WHO THE HELL'S THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE?!
BUT, THE TWO OF THEM SEEM TO HAVE A VERY GOOD RELATIONSHIP, EVERYONE SAYS THEY'RE MADE FOR EACH OTHER!
MY WIFE SAID THEY WERE JUST FRIENDS
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS... THERE'S SUCH A LARGE AGE GAP BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM!
WELL, IT LOOKS TO ME THAT YOUR WIFE SEEMS TO BE A LITTLE TOO INTIMATE WITH THAT OLD MAN
WHAT A WASTE FOR A WOMAN LIKE THAT TO BE MARRIED TO THAT KIND OF A MAN
UH... BUT,
A BEAUTIFUL FLOWER NEEDS SOMEONE WHO TRULY KNOWS THEM TO BLOOM EVEN MORE BEAUTIFULLY!
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT.

YOU WENT TO QIU XIAN'S PLACE AGAIN?
AREN'T YOU GOING THERE A LITTLE TOO OFTEN?
I-I'M NOT SUSPECTING YOU OF ANYTHING
IT'S JUST THAT EVEN THOUGH HE'S AN OLD MAN, BUT HE'S STILL A MAN! YOU SHOULD TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF
AAH,
WE'RE NOT AS INNOCENT.
WE MORTALS ARE NOT LIKE YOU. IT'S VERY COMPLEX.
...AS YOU MIGHT IMAGINE!
...DO YOU REALLY JUST TALK ABOUT FLOWERS?
WHAT ARE YOU IMPLYING?

EVERY TIME I TALK ABOUT MY SISTER, YOU ACT ALL WEIRD
WORRYING ABOUT YOUR WIFE IS NATURAL!
ISN'T THAT QIU XIAN A WIDOWER?
EH?
I HEARD HIS WIFE PASSED AWAY BEFORE THEY HAD ANY CHILDREN
IF I HAD KNOWN EARLIER, I'D HAVE MATCHED THE TWO OF THEM TOGETHER...
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH AGE,
BESIDES, WE LIVE IN CELESTIAL YEARS IF WE USE YOUR MORTAL YEARS TO CALCULATE, MY SISTER WOULD BE EVEN OLDER THAN QIU XIAN!
WITH AN OLD MAN LIKE THAT?


I'M SORRY!
IT'S ALL MY FAULT THAT YOU COULD ONLY FIND A BIG DUMB COW WHO DOESN'T UNDERSTAND FLOWERS!
YOU'RE WEIRD! I WAS JUST SAYING!
WHY ARE YOU SO ANGRY?
THERE'S NOTHING ELSE WE CAN DO
NO, SHE DOESN'T
IS THAT SO...
THIS IS A PART OF LIFE...
REALLY...
HOW SAD
SHE MUST REALLY DESPISE US HUMANS...
BUT SPEAKING OF HATRED...
I THINK YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HAS HATRED IN YOUR HEART.

AM I THE ONE WHO HAS HATRED IN HIS HEART?
PERHAPS SO...
I HATE ZHANG WEI...
NO. HE REMINDS ME OF THE WAY I USED TO BE
I...
USED TO BE JUST LIKE HIM
EH...?
SHE...
SHE NEVER BLAMED ME OR HATED ME EVEN ON HER DEATHBED
IF FLOWERS HAVE NO HATRED OR SPITE, THEN SHE MUST BE...
QIU XIAN?


SHE'S A LOT LIKE YOU
SORRY,
I WAS THINKING OF MY LATE WIFE
IT'S NOT IN TERMS OF LOOKS
HOW CAN I PUT THIS... IT'S A FEELING...
LAUGH-ABLE, ISN'T IT?
ALMOST LIKE A SPIRIT OF FLOWERS...
LIKE ME...?
OHO...
YOU TWO HAVE MET UP AGAIN!
QIU XIAN,
!
YOU AGAIN!
YOU SHOULD BE MAKING YOUR DECISION,
I'M RUNNING OUT OF PATIENCE

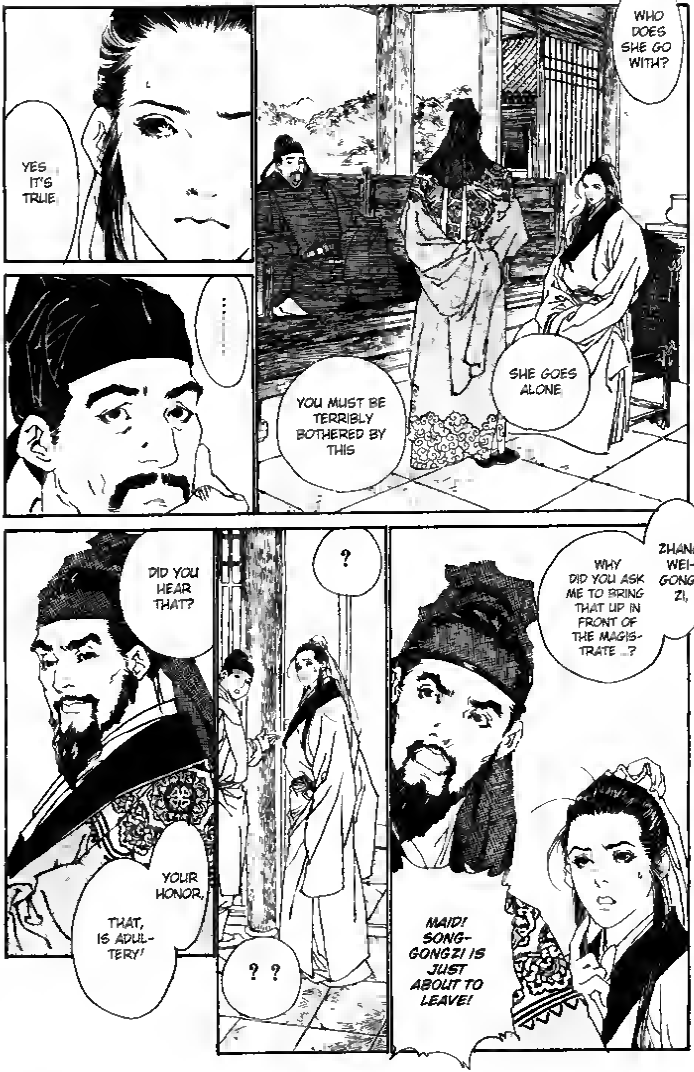
I TOLD YOU I'M NOT SELLING THIS PLACE!
HAAA...
SONG-FUREN, MAYBE YOU CAN HELP ME WITH A WORD OR TWO?
I REFUSE
HMPH!
SO YOU'VE MADE UP YOUR MIND TO HELP THIS OLD GEEZER?
WHY ARE YOU WASTING TIME ON A MAN WHO DOESN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND THE VALUE OF FLOWERS?
HE'S NOT THE ONE WHO DOESN'T UNDER-STAND
WHAT YOU LOVE IS THE REPUTATION OF BEING A FLOWER LOVER, ISN'T IT?
NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY, I STILL CAN'T THINK OF YOU AS A PERSON WHO LOVES FLOWERS

HEY, HEY! ZHANG-GONG-ZI
WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK I AM? IF I REALLY WANTED YOU TO, A WOMAN LIKE YOU COULD NEVER...
WOMAN!
HOW DARE YOU TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ME WHEN I'M TRYING TO BE GRACIOUS!
WHAT DID YOU...!
I WOULDN'T LET A MAN LIKE THAT DO ANYTHING TO ME
PIGS ARE BOUND TO FLY
HE LEFT WITHOUT AS MUCH AS A GRUMBLE AFTER ALL THAT...
I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE
?
??

I DON'T WANT TO IMPOSE
WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'LL DO WITH YOU HERE ALL ALONE
QIU XIAN, DO YOU WANT TO COME OVER?
I'D LIKE TO STAY IN THIS PLACE...
SONG-FUREN...
.....
QIU XIAN...
YOU ARE A PERSON OF WONDERS AFTER ALL...
THERE'S NO NEED FOR FORMALITY HERE. I CAME JUST TO ENJOY THE FLOWERS IN YOUR GARDEN,
YOUR HONOR!
SORRY I COULDN'T GIVE MY WELCOME!
IT'S NO BOTHER OF MINE WHETHER THE OWNER WAS HERE, HAHAHAHA...
MASTER,
THE MAGISTRATE IS HERE
?
HOW DID I GET HOME?

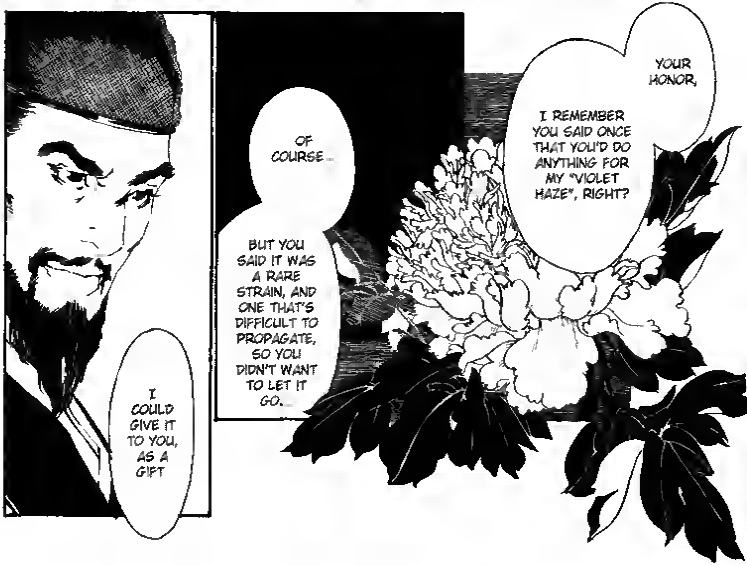
BY THE WAY, HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOUR HANDS ON THAT OLD MAN'S COURTYARD?
SIR, COULD YOU OFFER SOME HELP IN THIS DEPARTMENT?
TO MEET SUCH AN UNREASONABLE OLD MAN...
WELL...
MASTER
CRIME
IF HE'S COMMITTED SOME KIND OF CRIME I COULD ANNEX THAT PIECE OF PROPERTY, THEN TRANSFER IT TO YOU VIA AUCTION.
THERE'S ANOTHER GUEST HERE
.....
A PERSON FROM PEONY PALACE IS HERE
I APOLOGIZE,
I HOPE YOU CAN WAIT A LITTLE LONGER WITH THE MATTER REGARDING THE PEONIES.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE STILL BEING REINED IN BY HER.
IF THAT'S HOW IT LOOKS THEN I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY.
BUT, MAYBE THINGS ARE JUST LIKE YOU TOLD ME
MY WIFE'S GONE TO QIU XIAN'S AGAIN..
I REALLY CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT SHE'S THINKING.
LISTEN, I'VE GOT NO TIME TO...
SONG-GONG-ZI,
PLEASE, COME WITH ME
!
YOUR WIFE?
YES. SHE OFTEN VISITS OVER AT QIU XIAN'S HOME.


YES IT'S TRUE
WHO DOES SHE GO WITH?
SHE GOES ALONE
YOU MUST BE TERRIBLY BOTHERED BY THIS
.....
ZHANG WEI-GONG-ZI,
WHY DID YOU ASK ME TO BRING THAT UP IN FRONT OF THE MAGIS-TRATE ...?
MAID! SONG-GONGZI IS JUST ABOUT TO LEAVE!
?
? ?
DID YOU HEAR THAT?
YOUR HONOR, THAT, IS ADUL-TERY!

T/N: Views on relationships between men and women are very liberal during the Tang Dynasty

ADULTERY ?
YES.
IF THE HUSBAND'S APPEALING TO THE COURT, SHOULDN'T WE GO AND ARREST THOSE TWO?
DOES THAT COUNT AS AN APPEAL ?
BESIDES, IN THIS DAY AND AGE, MEN AND WOMEN BEING CLOSE FRIENDS IS VERY PREVALENT, EVERYBODY WOULD BE CRIMINALS THEN


YOUR HONOR,
I REMEMBER YOU SAID ONCE THAT YOU'D DO ANYTHING FOR MY "VIOLET HAZE", RIGHT?
OF COURSE...
BUT YOU SAID IT WAS A RARE STRAIN, AND ONE THAT'S DIFFICULT TO PROPAGATE, SO YOU DIDN'T WANT TO LET IT GO...
I COULD GIVE IT TO YOU, AS A GIFT

BAILIFFS,
ARE YOU QIU XIAN?
WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE WITH ME?
AH, DAI CHUN
YOU'RE BACK
DARLING
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK TROUBLED...
SOMETHING WEIRD HAPPENED,
I WENT TO VISIT ZHANG WEI-GONG JUST NOW.

RU CHUN!
RU CHUN!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "THAT STUFF"
THIS WHOLE THING WAS BECAUSE OF YOU
YOU TOLD THAT STUFF TO THE MAGISTRATE?
DAI CHUN, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
PICK A GOOD PEONY PLANT AND COME WITH ME
GET READY TO GO
SISTER, WHAT'S WRONG?!
I HAVE TO GO HELP QIU XIAN,
I'LL BE BACK SOON, WAIT FOR ME AT HOME.

...YES, THAT'S ME!
WE'RE HERE TO ARREST THE ADULTERESS
WHERE IS SHE?
ARE YOU SONG GUI XIANG?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
I JUST CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT...
AH?
DIDN'T I TELL YOU I'D DO IT? AS LONG AS IT'S SOMETHING I WANT, I'LL GET IT NO MATTER WHAT
ZHANG-GONGZI! THE COURTYARD YOU'VE BEEN DREAMING OF HAS FINALLY LANDED IN YOUR HANDS
WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO ACCUSED HER OF IT IN FRONT OF THE MAGISTRATE?
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT YOUR WIFE!

I BET QIU XIAN AND SONG-FUREN ARE SORRY FOR CROSSING ME NOW.
WHEN THE TWO OF THEM ARE RE-LEASED,
I'LL GET QIU AS A GARDENER, AND BUY THAT WOMAN OFF AS A PROSTI-TUTE FOR MYSELF.
AS FOR SONG GUI XIANG, I'LL GET HIM A WOMAN THAT HE CAN TAKE ON FOR ONCE!
HAHAHA...
THE THREE OF THEM WILL FINALLY KNOW HOW MUCH WEIGHT YOU'VE GOT UNDER YOUR BELT
THEN, LET'S GET OUR HANDS ON HIS TREAS-URES!
MA'AM, CAN I HELP YOU?

DAI CHUN!
I WAS JUST HEADING TO THE COURT-HOUSE!
I WAS JUST GOING HOME TO TELL YOU...
DAR-LING...
I HOPE THEY DIDN'T ARREST QIU XIAN.
T-THERE THERE ARE BAILIFFS AFTER YOU..
THERE'S SOMETHING THAT STILL DOESN'T SIT QUITE RIGHT WITH ME SO I'M HEADING THERE AS WELL.
QIU XIAN DID GET ARRESTED, BUT HE'S ALREADY BEEN RELEASED I TOLD RU CHUN TO WALK HIM BACK
IT'S TAKEN CARE OF.
THAT I'VE BROUGHT WHAT HE WANTED
PLEASE TELL THE MAGISTRATE,

RU CHUN?
WHY DID ZHANG WEI-GONGZI DO THIS...?
I'LL TELL YOU ALONG THE WAY
SISTER
IT'S TOO LATE...

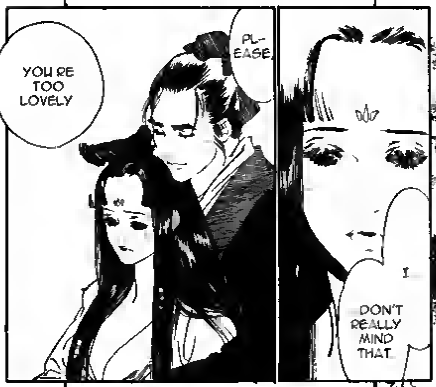
HOW DARE HE DO THIS
I DIDN'T THINK HE'D GO THIS FAR.
ZHANG WEI THOUGHT QIU XIAN WAS HIDING SOME RARE SPECIES OF FLOWERS
AND THEN HE MESSED EVERYTHING UP!
BUT WHEN HE REALIZED THAT THERE WASN'T ANYTHING HERE, HE SUDDENLY FLEW INTO A RAGE AND YELLED, "WHO WOULD WANT THIS DAMNED GARDEN?"
QIU XIAN--
WHAT DO WE DO?
IT'S ALL MY FAULT ...
NO,
IF I HAD JUST COOPERATED WITH ZHANG WEI
THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED

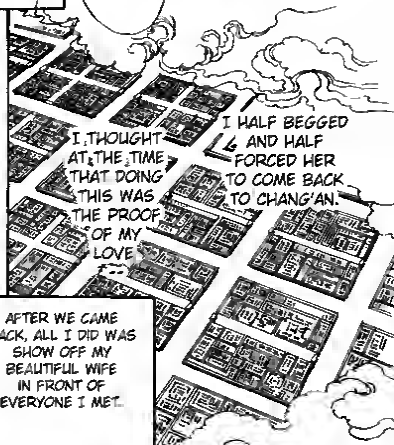
THIS IS...?
THIS IS QIU-FUREN'S GRAVE
SO THAT'S WHY QIU XIAN WOULDN'T SELL THIS COURTYARD,
ZHANG-GONGZI MISUNDERSTOOD...
THAT IS ONLY ONE OF THE REASONS...
BUT I THINK QIU XIAN IS CONCERNED ABOUT THIS LITTLE SPROUT, NO?
IF HIS COURTYARD EVER PASSES INTO ZHANG'S HANDS, THIS SPROUT WOULD BE PLUCKED LIKE A WEED BECAUSE IT DOESN'T BLOOM...
HMM...
SO YOU'VE NOTICED...
I DON'T THINK HE MEANS TO MAKE WASTE OF EVERY-THING
I WAS ONLY AFRAID THAT HE WOULD HALF JOKINGLY PLUCK HER OUT OF THE EARTH
SO I FORBADE HIM FROM COMING IN NOT KNOWING THAT IT WOULD CAUSE THIS SORT OF BACK LASH...
IS THIS A RARE BUD?
THIS IS A MEMORY OF MY WIFE!
...NO I'M ALMOST SURE SHE IS MY WIFE

NO, SHE REALLY MADE ME BELIEVE THIS WHOLLY, SHE IS JUST THAT SORT OF FANTASTICAL WOMAN
YOU MUST THINK THAT I'M A CRAZY OLD MAN, RIGHT?
BUT I'M SURE OF EVERYTHING I SAY.
...
!?
I'VE ALWAYS LOVED FLOWERS,
AND MOST OF ALL I LOVED TO LOOK AT THE WILD FLOWERS BLOSSOMING ON THE UNCULTIVATED FIELDS
ONE DAY, I HEARD THAT THERE WAS A FAMOUS FLOWER THAT ONLY GREW ON A CERTAIN MOUNTAIN,
I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY FLOWERS I'VE RUINED WITH MY NEGLECT.
I SPARED NO EXPENSE TO GET MY HANDS ON THAT PLANT.
YET I SIMPLY DIDN'T CARE.
BUT WHEN I STARTED TO MINGLE WITH OTHER BOTANY AFICIONADOS, I BEGAN HAVING THE NEED TO STAND OUT SO I BEGAN TO TRAVEL THE COUNTRY, COLLECTING ALL KINDS OF RARE PLANTS TO SHOW OFF TO FRIENDS

IT WAS A GRACEFUL AND ELEGANT BLOOM, EMITTING AN AIR OF REGALITY.
!?
JUST LIKE THAT---
WITHOUT STIR NOR SOUND, SHE SUDDENLY APPEARED BEFORE ME.
PLEASE LET HER STAY,
DON'T TAKE HER AWAY!
IS THIS FLOWER YOURS?
BUT SHE DIDN'T LET GO OF MY HAND.
HER EYES WERE FILLED WITH FRIGHT

I BACKED DOWN NOT BEING ABLE TO FORCE MY WAY.
INSTEAD OF TAKING IT AWAY, I VISITED HER EVERYDAY, WANTING TO BEG HER TO PART WITH THE FLOWER.
I THOUGHT, IF SHE COULD UNDERSTAND MY SINCERITY, SHE WOULD EVENTUALLY AGREE.
BUT CONTRARY TO MY PREDICTION SHE WAS OBSTINATE.
AND, I DON'T KNOW FROM WHEN IT STARTED, SOMEHOW, WHAT I WANTED WASN'T JUST THE FLOWER.
CUI JUE
MANY PEOPLE HAVE COME TO TAKE HER AWAY
AND YET NO MATTER WHAT I'VE SAID,
THIS FLOWER IS VERY FRAGILE, IT'S NOT POSSIBLE FOR PEOPLE TO CULTIVATE IT
THE ONE I WANT IS YOU,
COME BACK TO CHANG'AN WITH ME!
I DON'T WANT THE FLOWER ANY-MORE
.....
BUT YOU'RE DIFFERENT...





SHE DIDN'T SEEM TO DEAL WELL WITH THE LOCAL CLIMATE.

AND EVEN THOUGH I NOTICED THIS, I HADN'T EVEN THE LEAST BIT OF INITIATIVE TO TAKE HER BACK TO HER HOME TOWN.

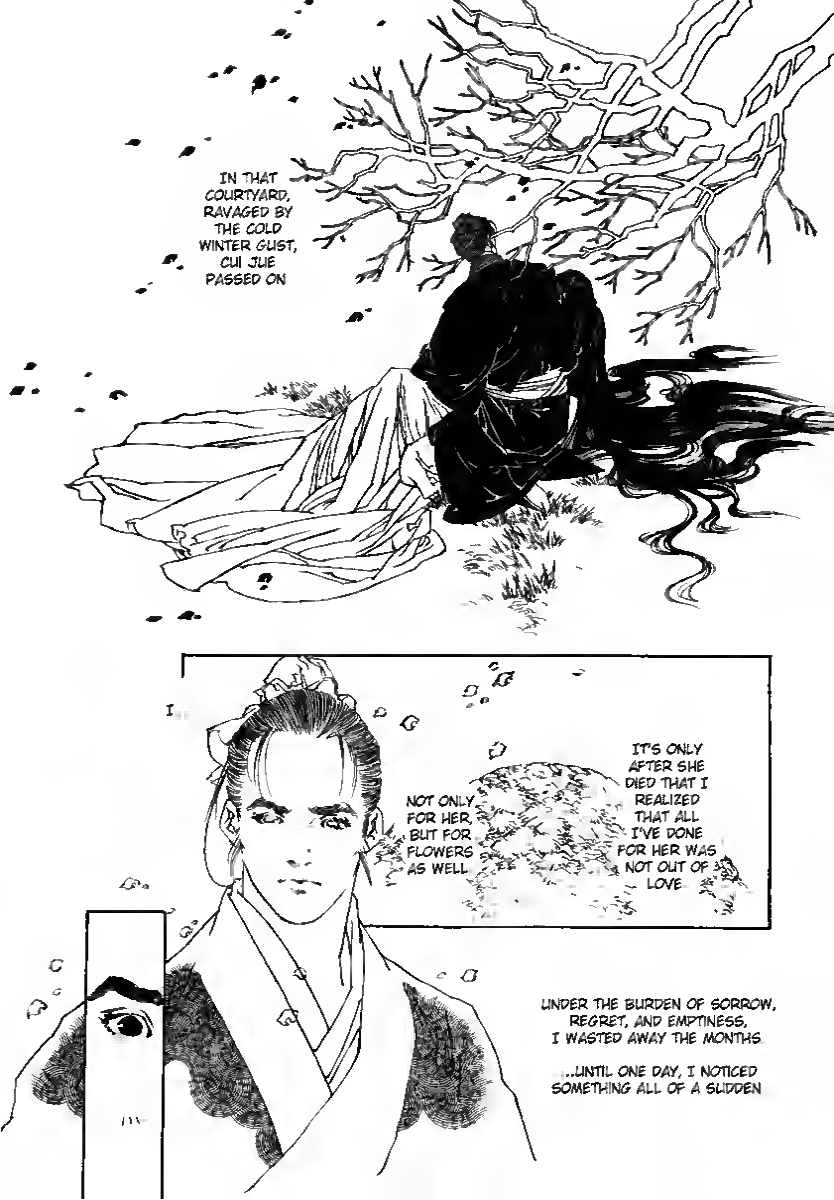
PLUS THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE ON MY CONSCIENCE.

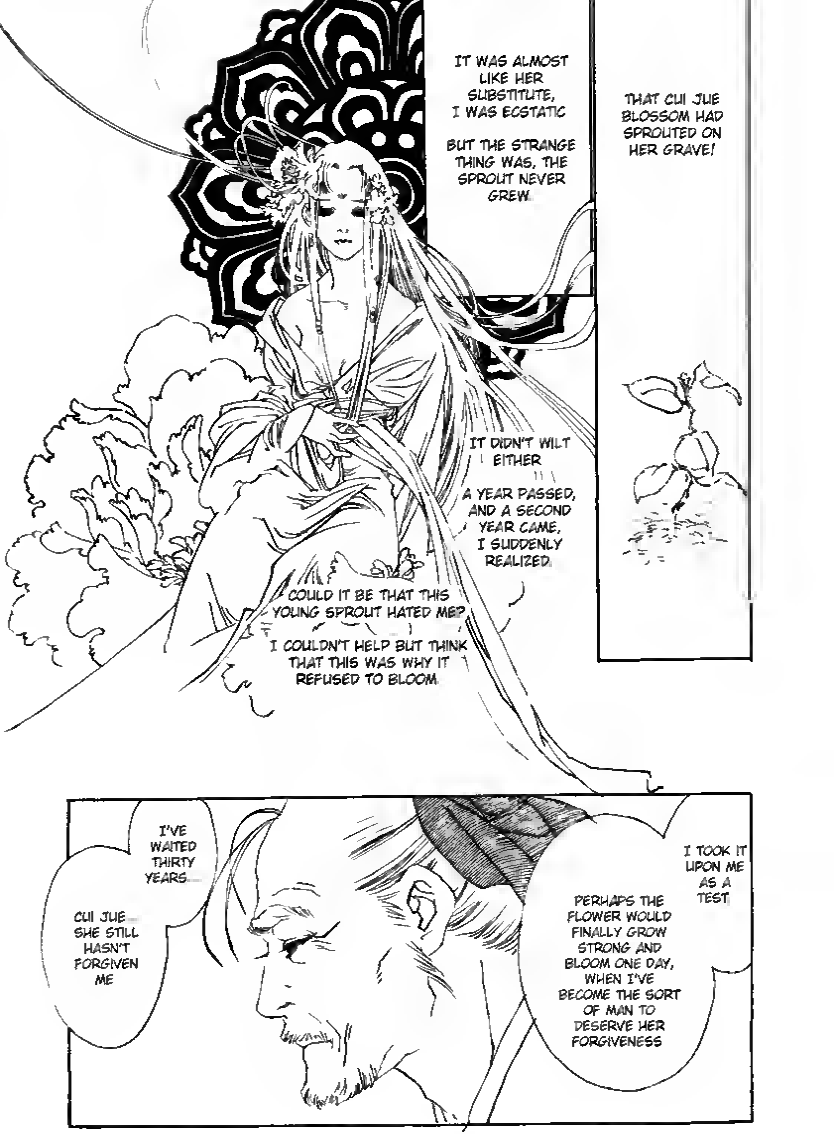
AFTER WE CAME BACK, ALL I DID WAS SHOW OFF MY BEAUTIFUL WIFE IN FRONT OF EVERYONE I MET.

.....
I WENT BEHIND HER BACK,
AND BROUGHT THE FLOWER HOME.
I... I DID IT BECAUSE OF YOU
YOU WERE SO ATTACHED TO THIS FLOWER
The flower had already begun to wilt.
SO I BROUGHT IT HERE FOR YOU
UPON HEARING THIS SHALLOW LIE, SHE WAS TOO SADDENED TO SAY ANYTHING
UNDER HER METICULOUS CARE, THE FLOWER FINALLY BEGAN TO SHOW A SIGN OF LIFE.
NOT LONG AFTER, IT BLOOMED EXQUISITELY.

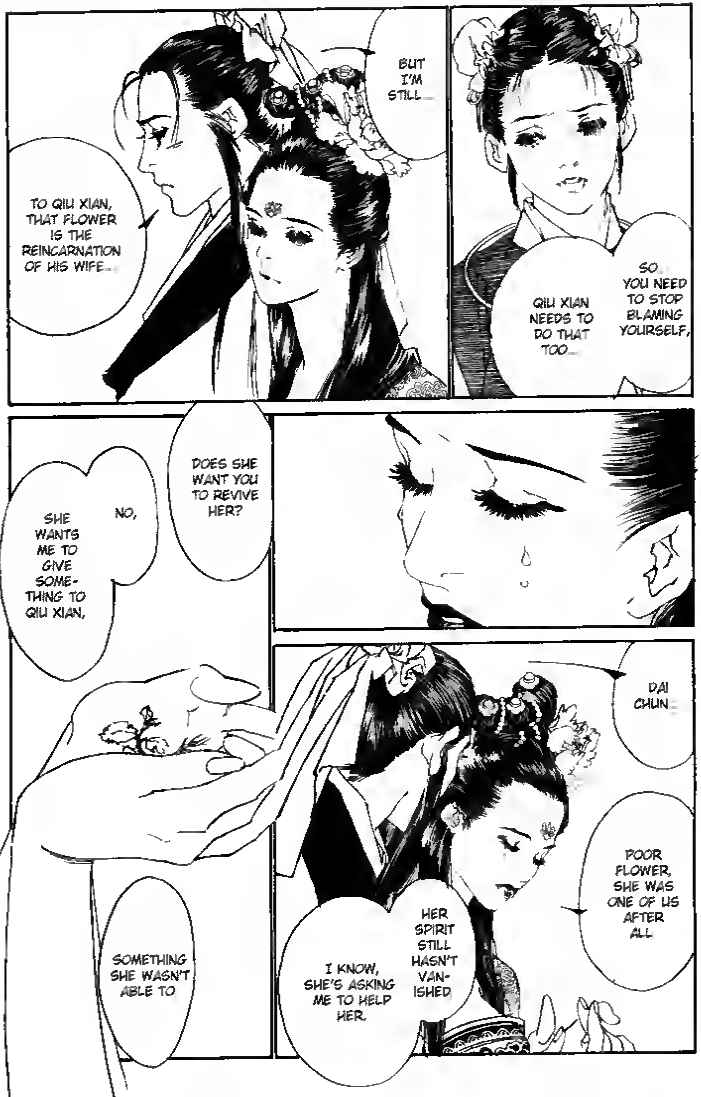
I HEARD YOU NAMED THIS FLOWER AFTER YOUR WIFE "CUI JUE", ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
IF YOU WERE INCLINED TO, HOW MUCH WOULD YOU SELL "CUI JUE" FOR?
BETWEEN YOUR WIFE AND THIS FLOWER, YOU'RE JUST CONSTANTLY SURROUNDED BY BEAUTY
HOW ENVIABLE!
EVEN IF PEOPLE OFFERED ME MILLIONS I'D NEVER SELL!
PROFITING OFF OF FLOWERS ISN'T PROPER CONDUCT OF A TRUE LOVER OF FLOWERS
ALL THIS CARE AND CONCERN,
ALL FOR NOTHING
THIS IS UNFORGIVABLE
I ACTUALLY LET THE FLOWER DIE OUT

EH?
I THINK
I
THIS "LOVE" YOU HAVE FOR THE FLOWERS, WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU...?
UNDER-STAND YOU LESS AND LESS
WHAT A SHAME!
HOW COULD I LET SUCH A RARE SPECIMEN GO...
IT'S A DAMN SHAME!
I'M THE SAME
TO YOU, I'M THE SAME AS THAT FLOWER
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT
CUI JUE...!


IN THAT COURTYARD, RAVAGED BY THE COLD WINTER GUST, CUI JUE PASSED ON
I...
NOT ONLY FOR HER, BUT FOR FLOWERS AS WELL
IT'S ONLY AFTER SHE DIED THAT I REALIZED THAT ALL I'VE DONE FOR HER WAS NOT OUT OF LOVE
UNDER THE BURDEN OF SORROW, REGRET, AND EMPTINESS, I WASTED AWAY THE MONTHS
...UNTIL ONE DAY, I NOTICED SOMETHING ALL OF A SUDDEN


IT WAS ALMOST LIKE HER SUBSTITUTE, I WAS ECSTATIC
BUT THE STRANGE THING WAS, THE SPROUT NEVER GREW.
THAT CUI JUE BLOSSOM HAD SPROUTED ON HER GRAVE!
IT DIDN'T WILT EITHER
A YEAR PASSED, AND A SECOND YEAR CAME, I SUDDENLY REALIZED.
COULD IT BE THAT THIS YOUNG SPROUT HATED ME?
I COULDN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT THIS WAS WHY IT REFUSED TO BLOOM.
I'VE WAITED THIRTY YEARS...
CUI JUE... SHE STILL HASN'T FORGIVEN ME
I TOOK IT UPON ME AS A TEST.
PERHAPS THE FLOWER WOULD FINALLY GROW STRONG AND BLOOM ONE DAY, WHEN I'VE BECOME THE SORT OF MAN TO DESERVE HER FORGIVENESS

AND YET... I'VE DRIVEN HER INTO THE CORNER AGAIN...
I...
I...
I'M REALLY AN INCORRIGIBLE MORON!
BROTHER.
DON'T BLAME YOURSELF LIKE THIS.
PEOPLE CAN'T HELP BUT HURT PEOPLE BY ACCIDENT AT TIMES!
NO. NOT JUST PEOPLE
FLOWERS ARE THE SAME NOT ALL FLOWERS EXIST IN PEACE AND HARMONY IN NATURE
IT'S AN INCREDIBLE JOY FOR FLOWERS TO BE PROTECTED IN THE HANDS OF MAN AND BE ABLE TO PROLIFERATE


TO QIU XIAN, THAT FLOWER IS THE REINCARNATION OF HIS WIFE...
BUT I'M STILL...
QIU XIAN NEEDS TO DO THAT TOO...
SO... YOU NEED TO STOP BLAMING YOURSELF.
DOES SHE WANT YOU TO REVIVE HER?
NO, SHE WANTS ME TO GIVE SOME-THING TO QIU XIAN.
DAI CHUN...
POOR FLOWER, SHE WAS ONE OF US AFTER ALL.
HER SPIRIT STILL HASN'T VAN-ISHED.
I KNOW, SHE'S ASKING ME TO HELP HER.
SOMETHING SHE WASN'T ABLE TO

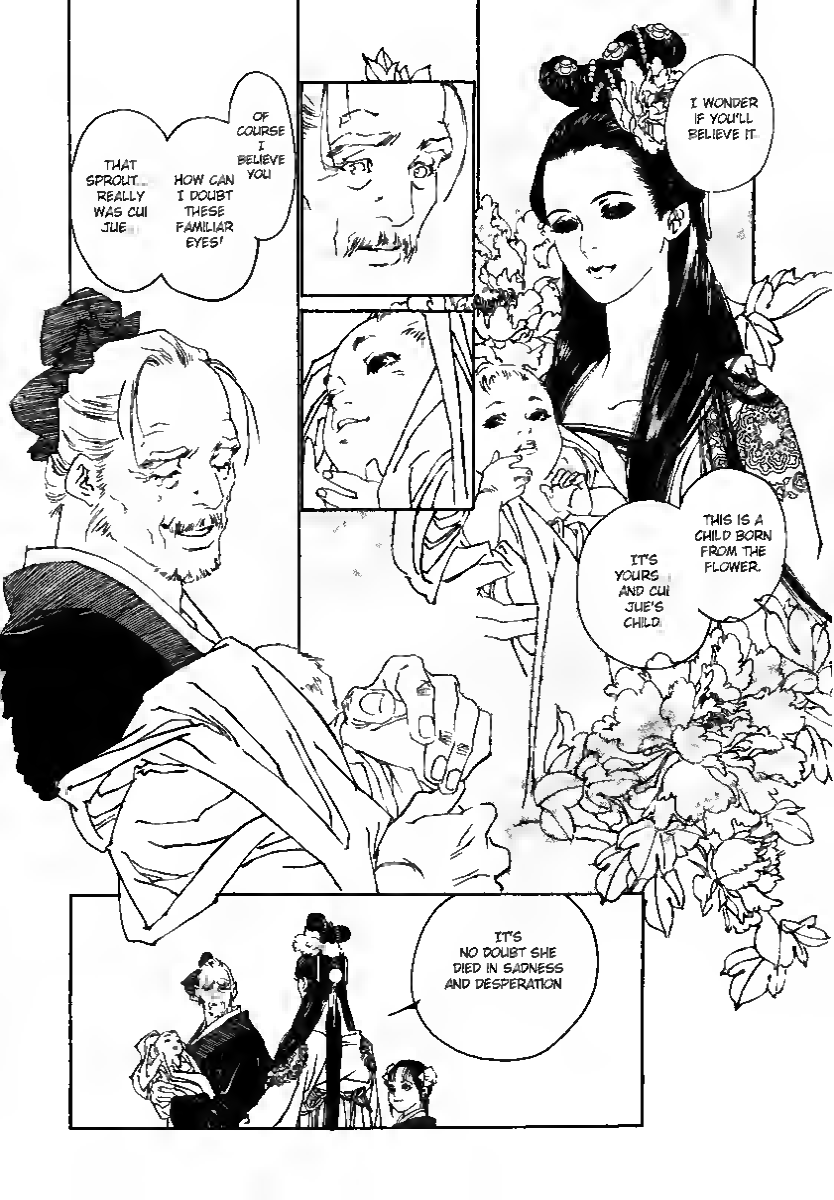
SIS-
TERS!
HEED
MY CALL!
COME FORTH
AND SHOW YOUR-
SELVES!

WE OFFER OUR MOST HUMBLE GREETINGS, SISTER.
RISE

I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK YOU.
I HOPE YOU'LL OFFER ME SOME HELP

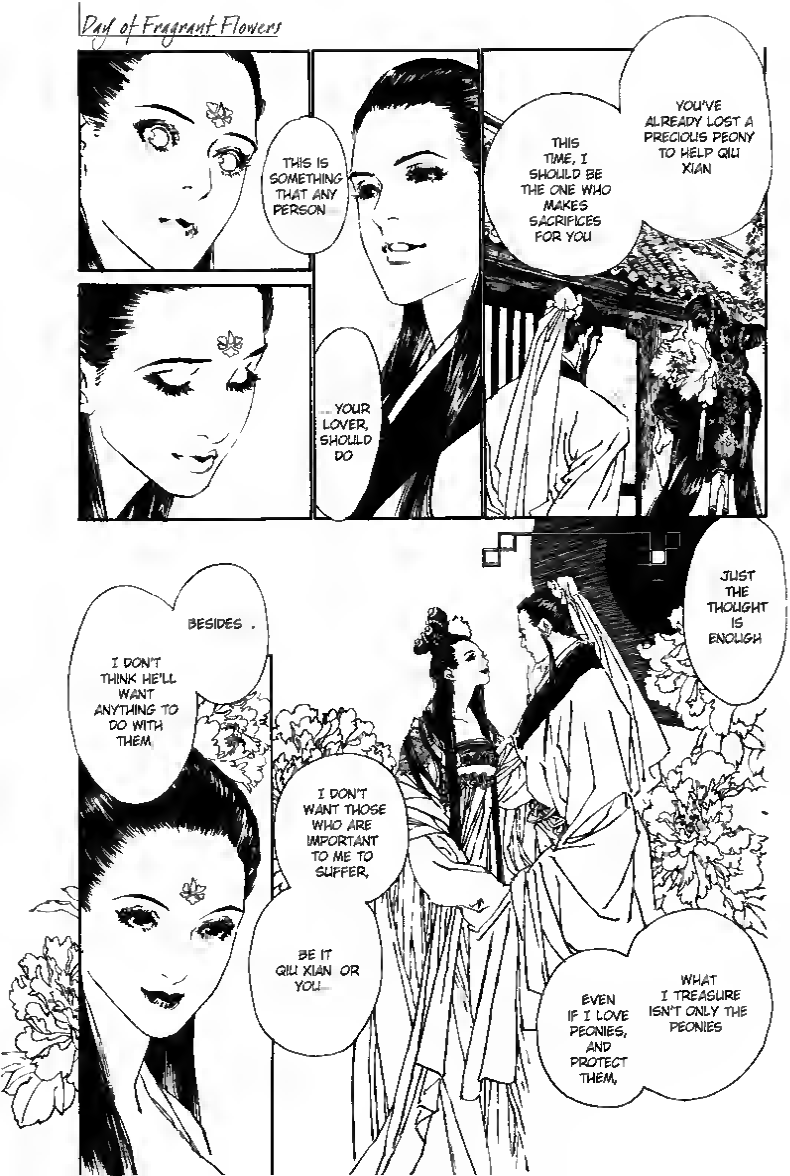
...!
THIS IS WHAT CUI JUE'S BEEN PROTECTING ALL THIS TIME...
AAH
THIS IS IT
I
I HEARD THE FLOWER BLOOMED?

CUI JUE DOESN'T HATE YOU.
EVEN IF SHE WANTED THE FLOWER TO GROW, THIS UNFORGIVING TERRAIN WOULDN'T ALLOW HER
BUT EVEN THEN, SHE'S HUNG ON FOR THIRTY YEARS—
IN HOPES OF GIVING YOU WHAT'S LEFT OF YOUR LOVE
TODAY, HER LIFE HAS FINALLY BEEN FUL-FILLED.
SO— PLEASE DON'T BE SAD ANYMORE, QIU XIAN.
THIS CHILD IS—?
WHAT'S LEFT OF OUR LOVE...?


I WONDER IF YOU'LL BELIEVE IT
THIS IS A CHILD BORN FROM THE FLOWER.
IT'S YOURS AND CUI JUE'S CHILD.
OF COURSE I BELIEVE YOU
HOW CAN I DOUBT THESE FAMILIAR EYES!
THAT SPROUT... REALLY WAS CUI JUE
IT'S NO DOUBT SHE DIED IN SADNESS AND DESPERATION

SONG-FUREN...
YOU'RE...
BUT DEEP IN THE DARK EARTH, HER ICE COLD HEART MELTED.
IT WAS YOUR TEARS SHED BEFORE CUI JUE'S GRAVE THAT MELTED HER FROZEN HEART.
SHE TOLD ME THIS.
THANK YOU.
BECAUSE OF YOU, I'VE GAINED A REASON FOR WHAT LITTLE EXISTENCE I HAVE LEFT.

SISTER,
IF THE QUEEN OF ALL FLOWERS EVER GETS WIND OF THIS, WE'LL BE SCOLDED FOR SURE.
BRINGING A FLOWER BACK FROM THE DEAD, EVEN JUST A LITTLE BIT, IS STILL AGAINST THE LAWS OF NATURE!
AAH, IT'S NO PROB-LEM!
WE SHOULD DO A LITTLE GOOD EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE!
QIU XIAN'S STORY HAS FINALLY COME TO A CLOSE...
BUT WHAT SHOULD I DO? ZHANG WEI-GONGZI PROB-ABLY STILL WANTS A PEONY
ARE YOU GOING TO GIVE HIM ONE, THEN?
EH?
IS IT OKAY?
...NO,
NEVER MIND


YOU'VE ALREADY LOST A PRECIOUS PEONY TO HELP QIU XIAN
THIS TIME, I SHOULD BE THE ONE WHO MAKES SACRIFICES FOR YOU
THIS IS SOMETHING THAT ANY PERSON
... YOUR LOVER, SHOULD DO
JUST THE THOUGHT IS ENOUGH
WHAT I TREASURE ISN'T ONLY THE PEONIES
EVEN IF I LOVE PEONIES, AND PROTECT THEM,
I DON'T WANT THOSE WHO ARE IMPORTANT TO ME TO SUFFER,
BE IT QIU XIAN OR YOU...
BESIDES .
I DON'T THINK HE'LL WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH THEM

J-JUST WHAT KIND OF SORCERY DID THEY INFLICT ON HIM?
LIAR!
WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO SAID HE GOT WHAT HE DESERVED?
SISTER'S CAST A SPELL ON THAT ZHANG WEI!
EVEN I FEEL PITY FOR HIM.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

JUST WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ZHANG WEI -GONG?!
PEONY? NO THANKS.
IT'S NOT JUST PEONIES, WE'VE BEEN GIVING AWAY ALL THE FLOWERS ON THE ESTATE!
WELL, RECENTLY HE'S BEEN SNEEZING AND TEARING UP JUST FROM GOING NEAR FLOWERS.
IT'S A VERY CURIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE.

AH-CHOO!
AAH-CHOO!
AREN'T WE GOING A LITTLE TOO OVERBOARD?
HEY! HE SHOULD THANK THE GODS THAT WE'RE TAKING IT EASY ON HIM!

Rensen

by Sumeragi Natsuki

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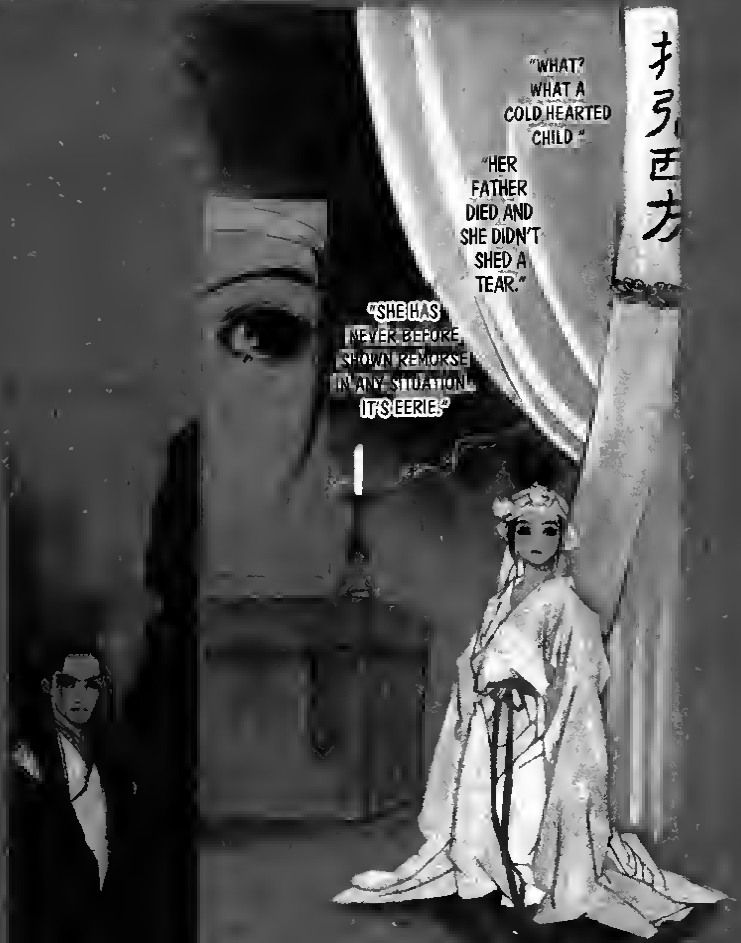
Translated Mtz

Edited

Quality Maverick


"WHAT? WHAT A COLD HEARTED CHILD."
"HER FATHER DIED AND SHE DIDN'T SHED A TEAR."
"SHE HAS NEVER BEFORE SHOWN REMORSE IN ANY SITUATION. IT'S EERIE."

恋泉

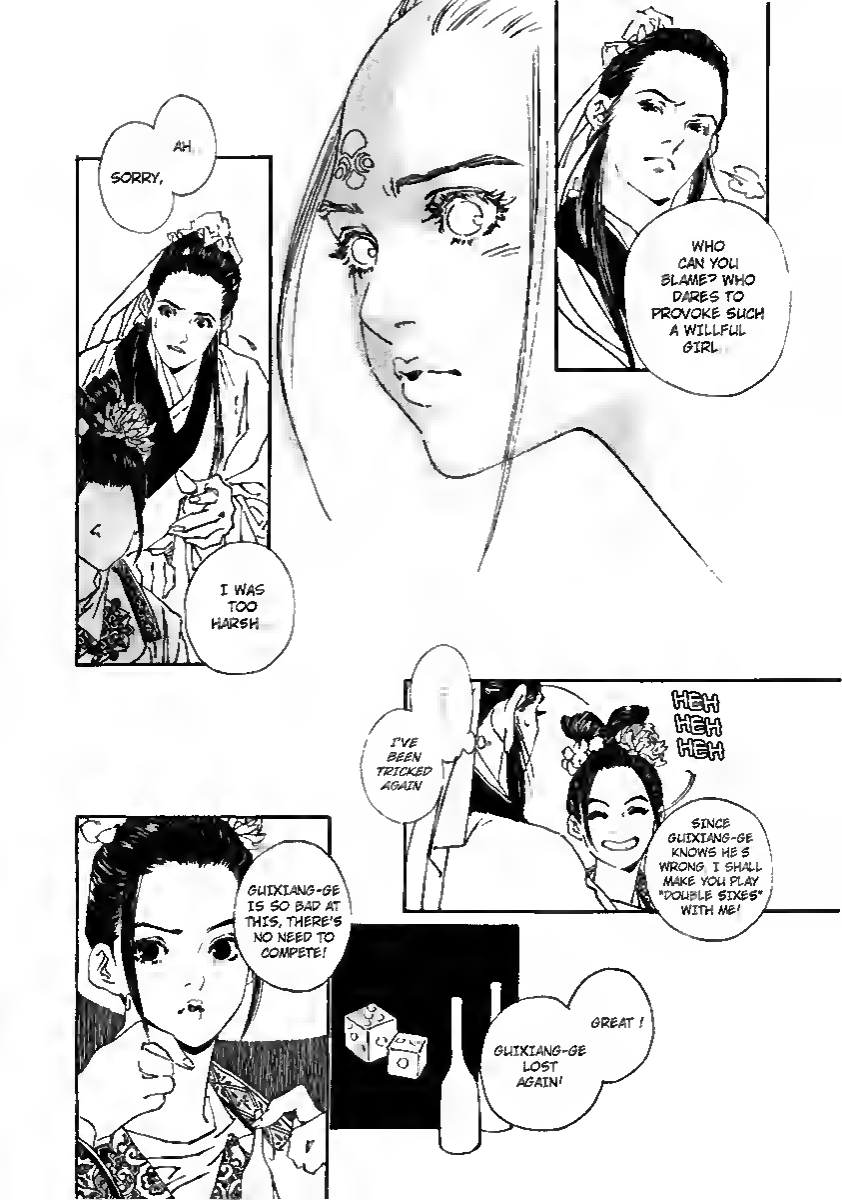
Fountain of Love

"ENVOY FOR PROTECTION OF FLOWERS, HIS MAJESTY HAS GRANTED PERMISSION."
"YOU MAY DESCEND TO THE HUMAN WORLD."
AND THUS... YOU MAY GO NOW."

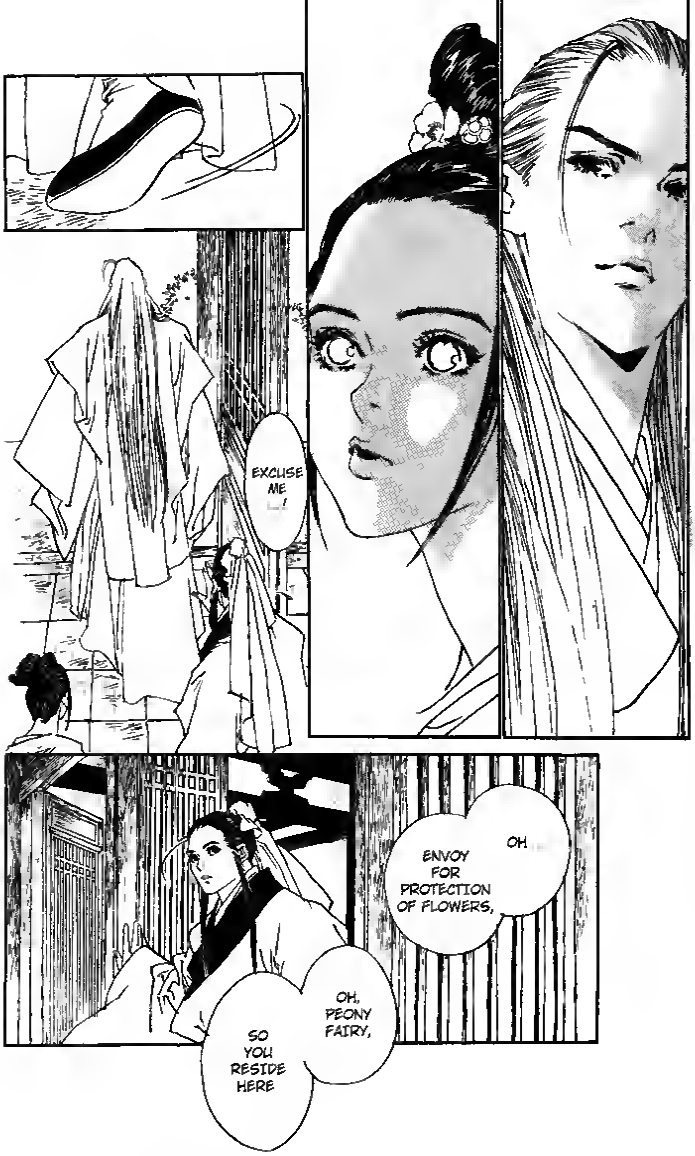
LOSING YOUR MONEY IS NOTHING, IT BEATS LOSING YOUR LIFE!
YOUR YINHUA FIGHTING COCK IS REALLY AMAZING!
TSK! YOU'VE WON ALL MY GAMBLING MONEY AGAIN!
HMPH! SINCE YOU ALL LIKE TO MOCK ME, I WON'T COME ANYMORE!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THAT LITTLE GIRL TAKES PEOPLE'S LIVES?
DIDN'T YOU KNOW? ALL FIVE OF HER FAMILY MEMBERS, HER PARENTS AND HER BROTHERS, DIED FROM AN ILLNESS.
IT'S NOT JUST THAT! HER PARENTS ARRANGED TWO MARRIAGES FOR HER, BUT BOTH GROOMS-TO-BE ALSO DIED! THAT'S HOW THE RUMORS STARTED
ANYONE WHO GETS TOO CLOSE TO HER WILL DIE AN EARLY DEATH
THAT'S REALLY PITIFUL!
IT'S HARD NOT TO BELIEVE. I HEARD SHE DIDN'T SHED A SINGLE TEAR AT HER PARENTS AND BROTHER'S FUNERAL
HER RELATIVES AVOID HER LIKE THE PLAGUE
I HEAR SHE WAS TAKEN IN BY A DISTANT RELATIVE

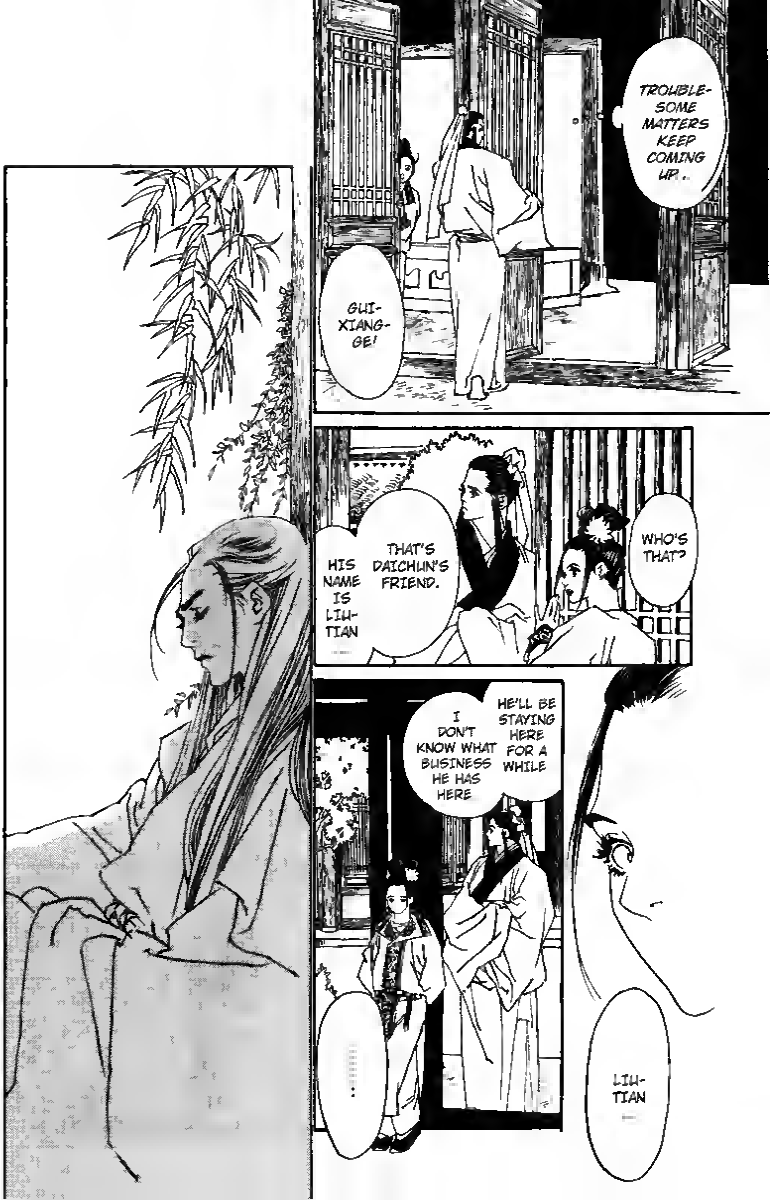
T/N: DOUBLE SIXES IS A GAME OF DICE WHERE YOU TRY TO THROW TWO "SIXES"
GUIXIANG-GE, LET'S PLAY "DOUBLE SIXES"?
JUST BECAUSE THINGS DON'T GO YOUR WAY!
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I SAID THIS? DON'T VENT YOUR FRUSTRATIONS ON THE FLOWERS
causing them to die like this ---
THE PEOPLE OUTSIDE AREN'T NICE, I DON'T LIKE THEM.
GO OUTSIDE IF YOU WANT TO PLAY
I'M VERY BUSY
GUI-XIANG-GE*
YINHUA! YOU!
YOU WENT OUT AND GOT INTO AN ARGUMENT WITH PEOPLE AGAIN?
(T/N: Ge" means older brother)

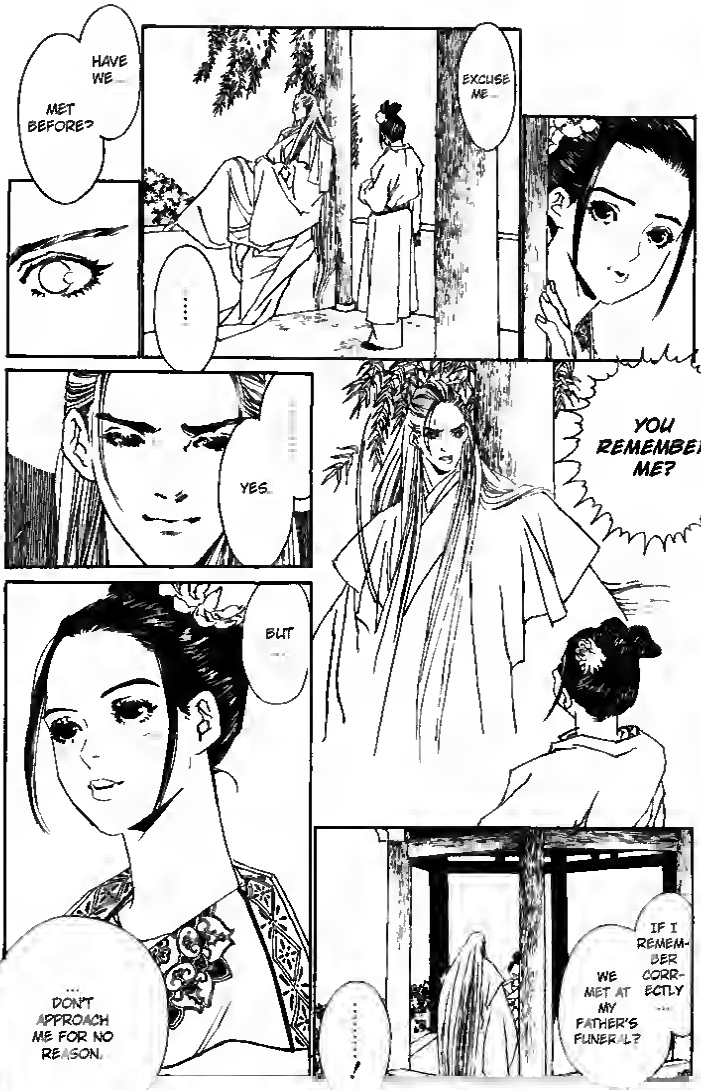

AH, SORRY,
I WAS TOO HARSH
WHO CAN YOU BLAME? WHO DARES TO PROVOKE SUCH A WILLFUL GIRL
I'VE BEEN TRICKED AGAIN
HEH HEH HEH
SINCE GUIXIANG-GE KNOWS HE'S WRONG, I SHALL MAKE YOU PLAY "DOUBLE SIXES" WITH ME!
GUIXIANG-GE IS SO BAD AT THIS, THERE'S NO NEED TO COMPETE!
GREAT!
GUIXIANG-GE LOST AGAIN!

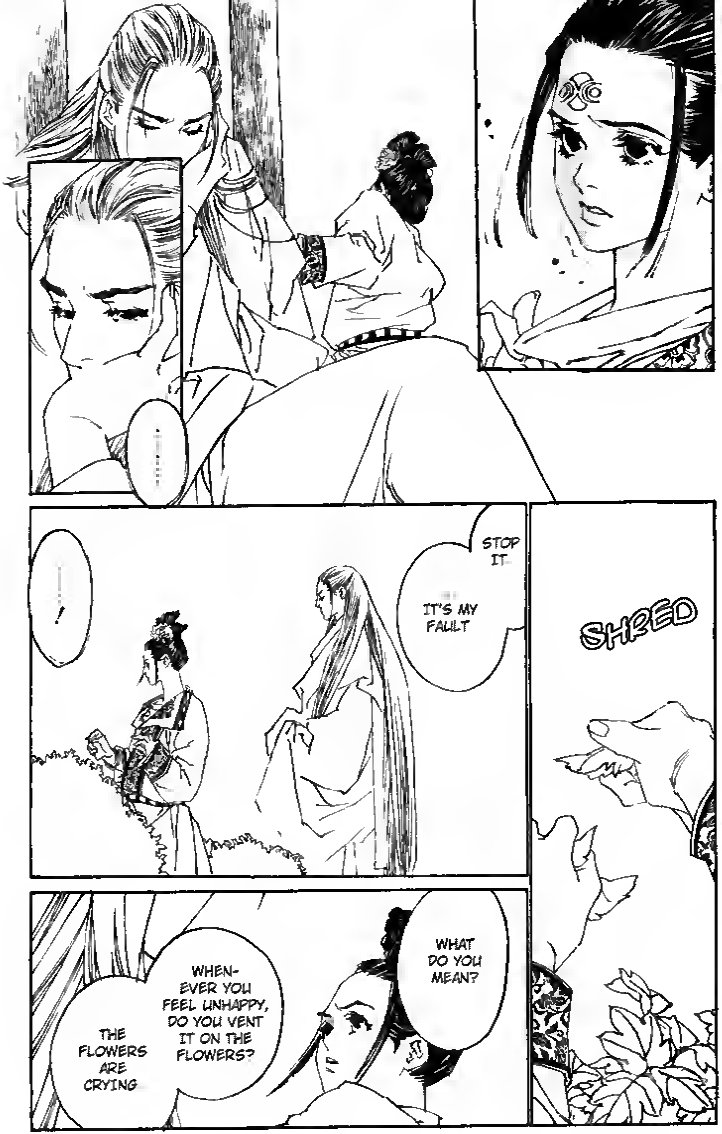
I'D RATHER BE RID OF THE DICE...
Ten thousand times! Ten thousand times!
WHY DON'T I TEACH YOU A SECRET? YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GET HOWEVER MANY POINTS YOU WANT!
"YI DI MI DI, MI JIE LUO DI", RECITE THIS TEN THOUSAND TIMES!
...
!?
WHO... WHO'S THAT?

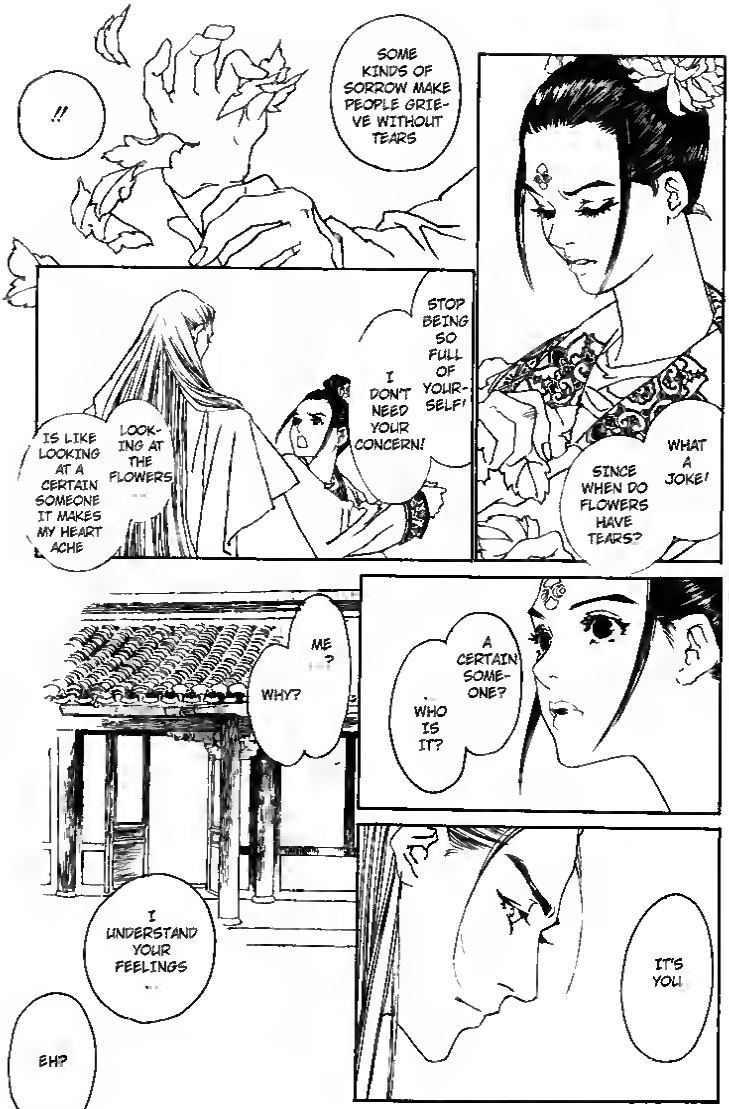

EXCUSE ME...!
OH...
ENVOY FOR PROTECTION OF FLOWERS,
OH, PEONY FAIRY,
SO YOU RESIDE HERE

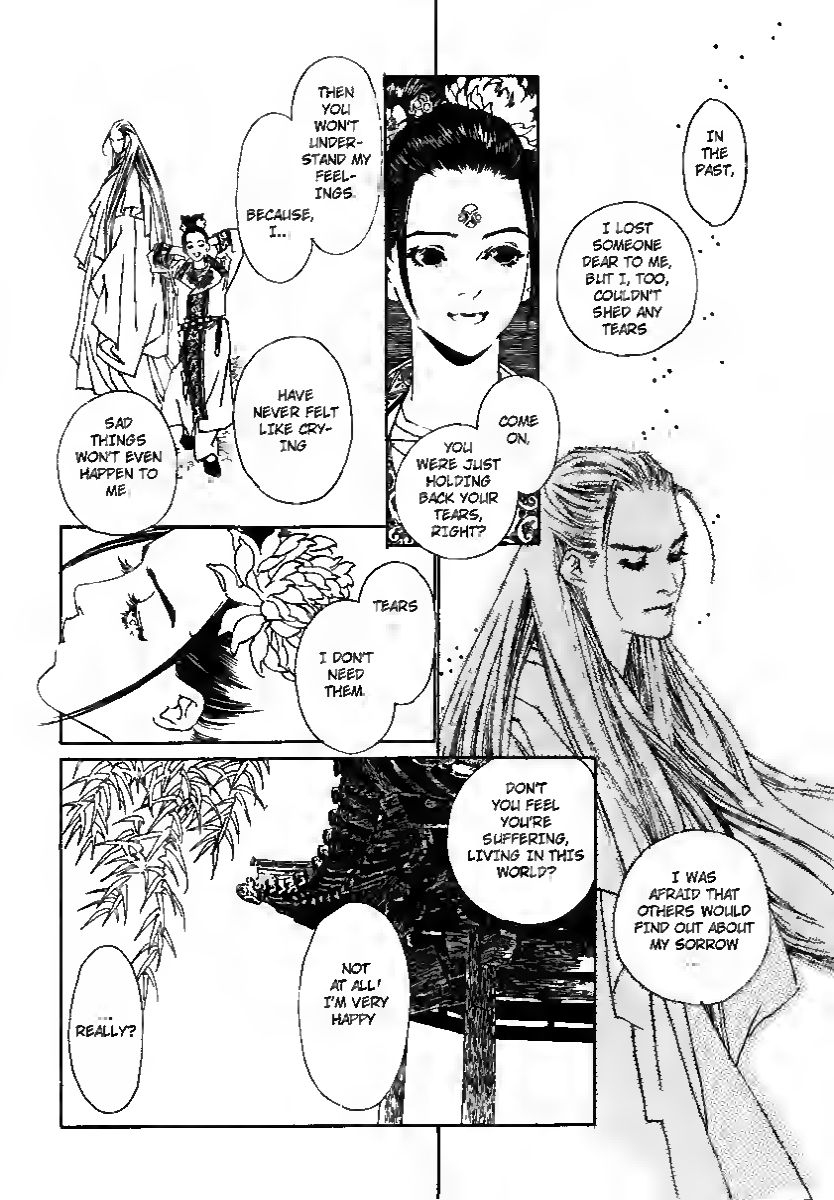
I'VE HEARD THAT YOU MARRIED A HUMAN...
SO, THAT PERSON IS THE HUMAN CALLED SONG GUIXIANG?
I HAVE SOMETHING TO ATTEND TO.
PEONY FAIRY, I'LL HAVE TO BOTHER YOU FOR A WHILE.
EXCUSE ME...
ARE YOU FROM HEAVEN LIKE MY WIFE?
I'M AT YOUR COMMAND.
BUT I HAVE TO RUN AN ERRAND FOR MISTRESS BAIHUA
OF COURSE! DO I LOOK LIKE A MERE HUMAN?!
YES.
MY LORD, I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO DESCEND TO EARTH.
YOU ACTUALLY THINK I'M THE SAME AS THE REST OF YOU
YOU LOW-RANKING SCUM ARE TRULY FOOLS
SORRY TO OFFEND YOU, BUT I REALLY CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE
HE HE HE!
TO ME, IT'S A PEACEFUL HOME
IS THE HUMAN WORLD THAT BAD?
DON'T MIND HIM
HE HAS BEEN STAYING IN HEAVEN, SO HE'S A BIT BIASED AGAINST THE HUMAN WORLD

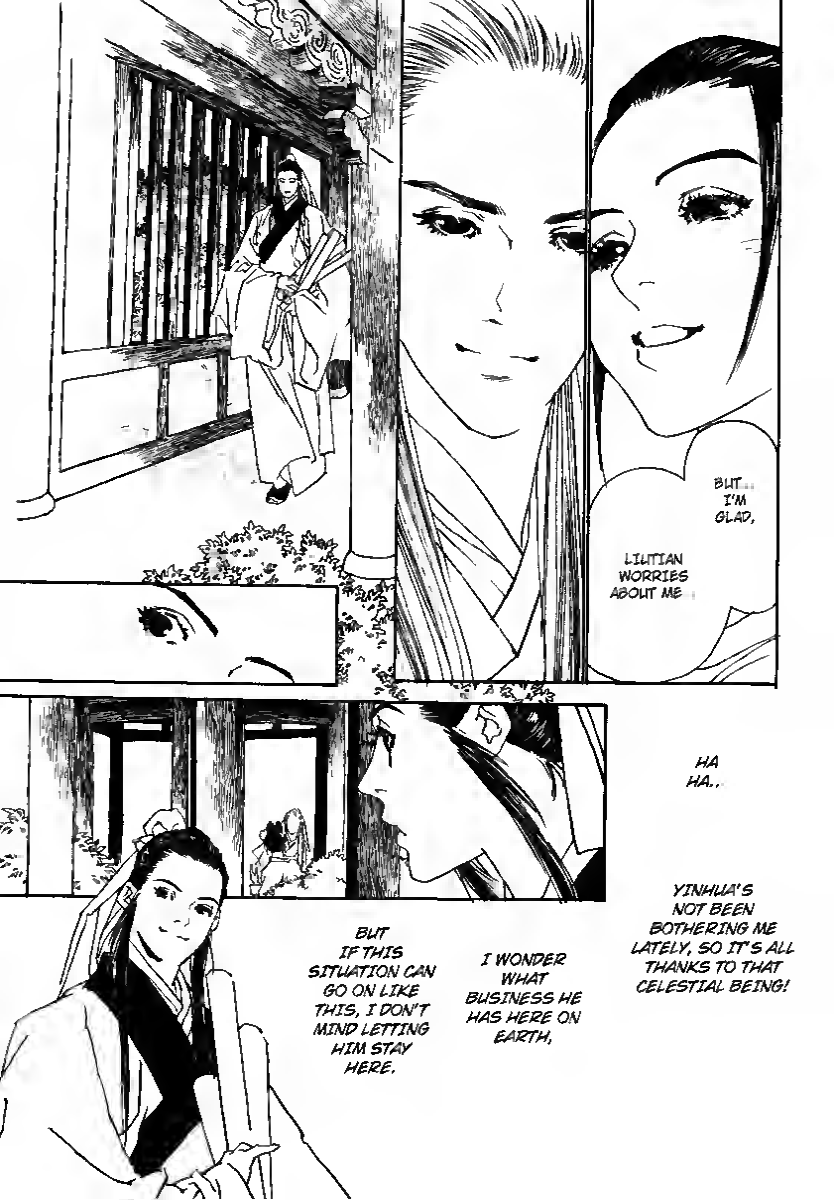

TROUBLE-SOME MATTERS KEEP COMING UP..
GUI-XIANG-GE!
WHO'S THAT?
THAT'S DAICHUN'S FRIEND.
HIS NAME IS LIU-TIAN
HE'LL BE STAYING HERE FOR A WHILE
I DON'T KNOW WHAT BUSINESS HE HAS HERE
LIU-TIAN


IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY ...
WE MET AT MY FATHER'S FUNERAL?
.....!
YOU REMEMBER ME?
EXCUSE ME...
HAVE WE... MET BEFORE?
.....
YES.
BUT...
...DON'T APPROACH ME FOR NO REASON.


STOP IT
IT'S MY FAULT
SHRED
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHEN-EVER YOU FEEL UNHAPPY, DO YOU VENT IT ON THE FLOWERS?
THE FLOWERS ARE CRYING

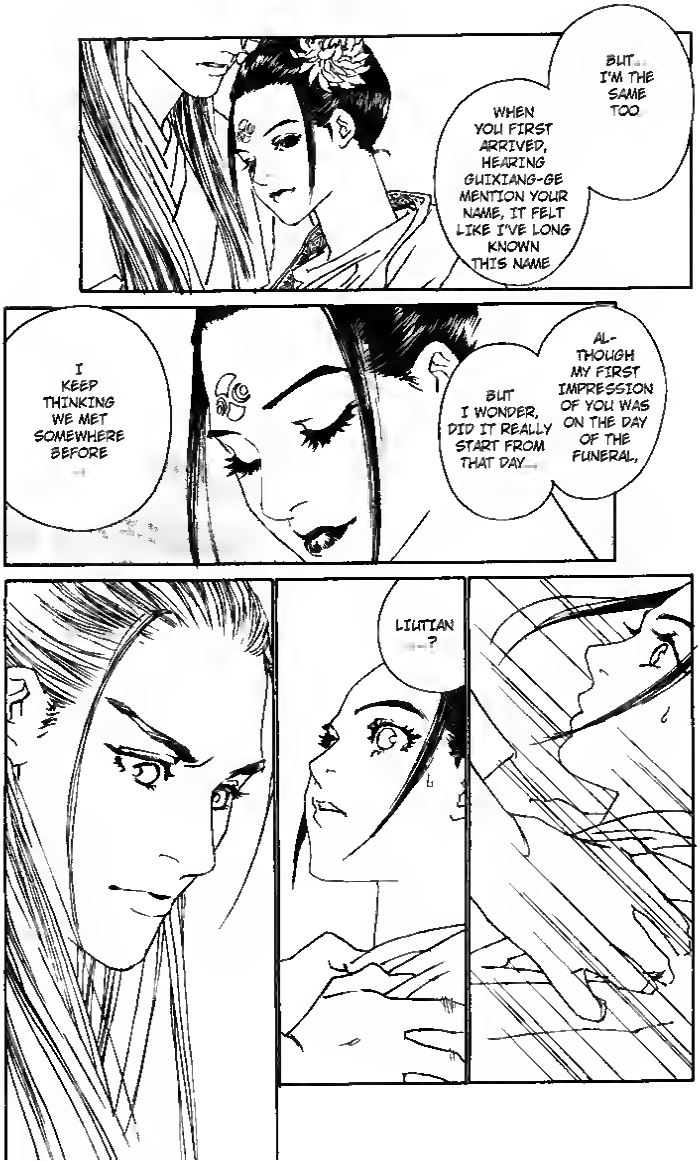

!!
SOME KINDS OF SORROW MAKE PEOPLE GRIEVE WITHOUT TEARS
WHAT A JOKE!
SINCE WHEN DO FLOWERS HAVE TEARS?
STOP BEING SO FULL OF YOURSELF!
I DON'T NEED YOUR CONCERN!
LOOKING AT THE FLOWERS...
IS LIKE LOOKING AT A CERTAIN SOMEONE IT MAKES MY HEART ACHE
A CERTAIN SOMEONE?
WHO IS IT?
ME?
WHY?
IT'S YOU!
I UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS...
EH?


IN THE PAST,
I LOST SOMEONE DEAR TO ME, BUT I, TOO, COULDN'T SHED ANY TEARS
COME ON. YOU WERE JUST HOLDING BACK YOUR TEARS, RIGHT?
THEN YOU WON'T UNDERSTAND MY FEELINGS.
BECAUSE, I..
HAVE NEVER FELT LIKE CRYING
SAD THINGS WON'T EVEN HAPPEN TO ME.
TEARS
I DON'T NEED THEM.
I WAS AFRAID THAT OTHERS WOULD FIND OUT ABOUT MY SORROW
DON'T YOU FEEL YOU'RE SUFFERING, LIVING IN THIS WORLD?
NOT AT ALL! I'M VERY HAPPY
...REALLY?


BUT... I'M GLAD,
LILITIAN WORRIES ABOUT ME.
HA HA..
YINHUA'S NOT BEEN BOTHERING ME LATELY, SO IT'S ALL THANKS TO THAT CELESTIAL BEING!
I WONDER WHAT BUSINESS HE HAS HERE ON EARTH,
BUT IF THIS SITUATION CAN GO ON LIKE THIS, I DON'T MIND LETTING HIM STAY HERE.

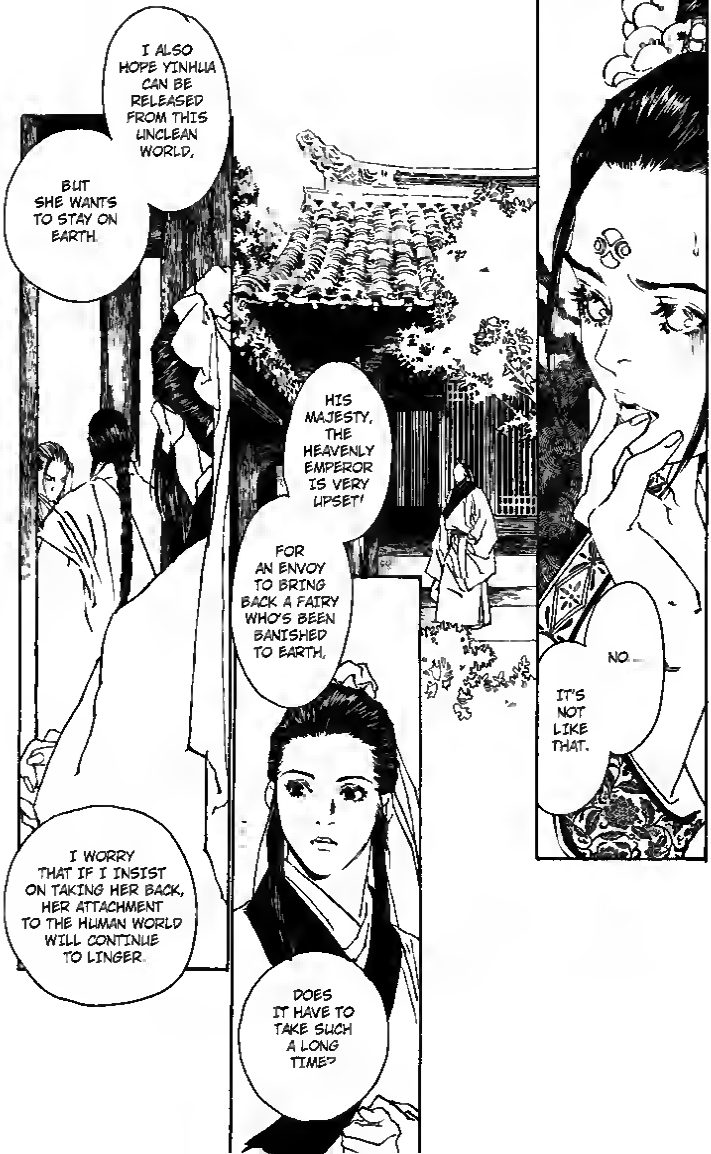
AM I LAUGHING TOO HARD?
DOES IT BOTHER YOU?
NO
THAT'S GREAT
THE OTHERS OFTEN TEASE ME AND SAY "YINHUA'S ALWAYS LAUGHING SO HAPPILY, WITH NO WORRIES AT ALL."
YOU STILL FEEL PAIN, DON'T YOU?
NO MATTER HOW PAINFUL,
THERE'S NOWHERE TO SEEK RELIEF

IF
THERE'S SOMEWHERE YOU CAN GO,
WOULD YOU HOPE TO GO THERE?
NO
IT'S ENOUGH TO BE LIKE THIS
TO BE LIKE THIS...
HOW ABOUT LIUTIAN?
WELL,
IT'LL BE GREAT IF IT'S GOING TO BE LIKE THIS FROM NOW ON
BECAUSE...
I'VE ALWAYS HOPED YOU WOULD SMILE AGAIN.
IT'S REALLY INCREDIBLE,
YOUR WORDS MAKE ME FEEL LIKE YOU'VE KNOWN ME FOR A LONG TIME.

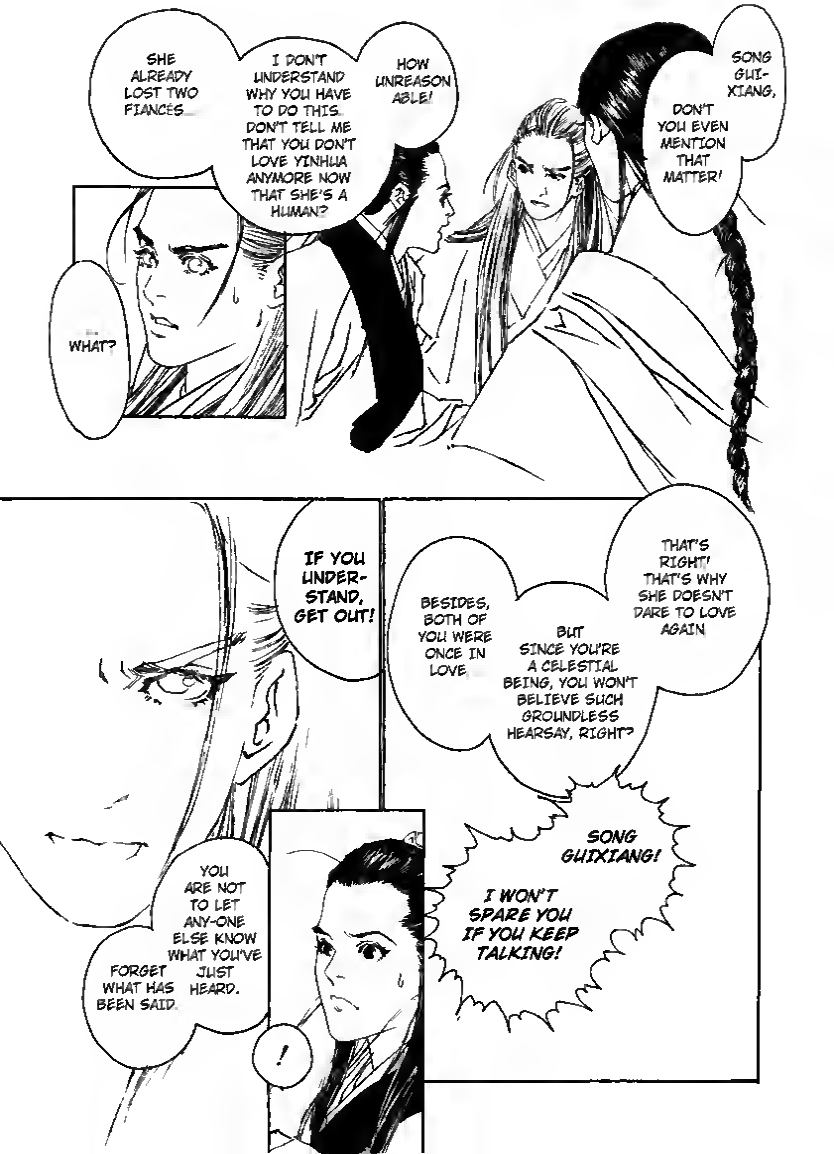

WHEN YOU FIRST ARRIVED, HEARING GUIXIANG-GE MENTION YOUR NAME, IT FELT LIKE I'VE LONG KNOWN THIS NAME
BUT... I'M THE SAME TOO
AL-THOUGH MY FIRST IMPRESSION OF YOU WAS ON THE DAY OF THE FUNERAL,
BUT I WONDER, DID IT REALLY START FROM THAT DAY...
I KEEP THINKING WE MET SOMEWHERE BEFORE
LIUTIAN ?

YOU...
DON'T COME NEAR ME FROM NOW ON.
I SAY...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? WHY AREN'T YOU WITH LIUTIAN THESE DAYS?
... HE TOLD ME
... NOT TO SEE HIM ANYMORE.
LIU-TIAN ...?
WHY?
I DON'T KNOW

YINHUA
IT MUST BE BECAUSE YOU'VE EXPERIENCED THE LOSS OF TWO FIANCES...
YOU'RE AFRAID THAT IF THIS HAPPENS AGAIN, YOU WON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
BUT, YOU'RE STILL YOUNG
YOU FOUND SOMEONE YOU LIKE, YOU HAVE TO WORK HARD TO MAKE THIS RELATIONSHIP BEAR FRUIT
BUT... I DON'T KNOW WHY, I'M SO SCARED, SO SCARED THAT I DON'T DARE TO ASK HIM THE REASON
IT SEEMS THAT SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAS HAPPENED BEFORE
GUI-XIANG-GE!
BUT I...
DON'T WORRY, LEAVE IT TO ME!
DO YOU KNOW? THIS IS ALL FOR YOU!

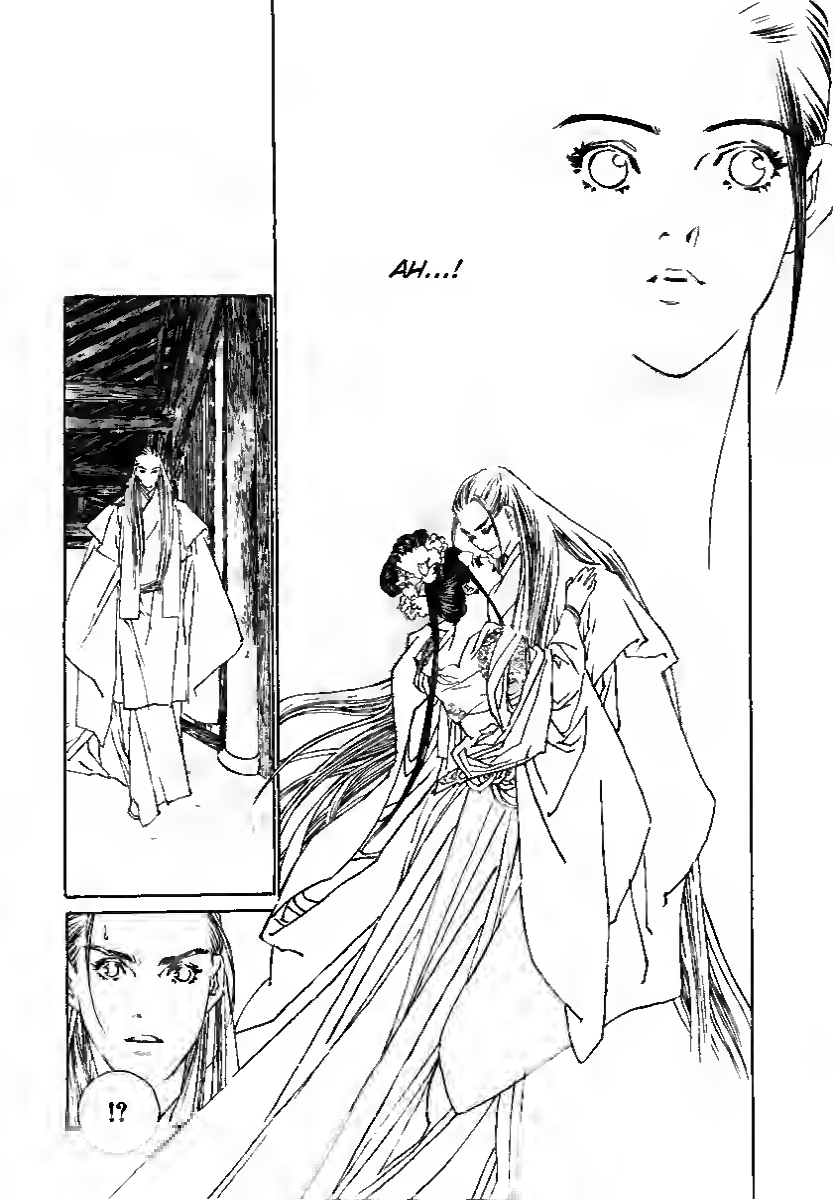

I ALSO HOPE YINHUA CAN BE RELEASED FROM THIS UNCLEAN WORLD.
BUT SHE WANTS TO STAY ON EARTH.
HIS MAJESTY, THE HEAVENLY EMPEROR IS VERY UPSET!
FOR AN ENVOY TO BRING BACK A FAIRY WHO'S BEEN BANISHED TO EARTH.
NO... IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
I WORRY THAT IF I INSIST ON TAKING HER BACK, HER ATTACHMENT TO THE HUMAN WORLD WILL CONTINUE TO LINGER.
DOES IT HAVE TO TAKE SUCH A LONG TIME?

ATTACHMENT?
I WONDER WHO STILL HAS A LINGERING ATTACHMENT TO WHOM!
COMMANDER
CAN'T YOU HAND THIS RESPONSIBILITY TO SOMEONE ELSE...?
DON'T BRING THIS UP AGAIN
JUST BECAUSE YOU HAD A FATED RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FAIRY...
!
COMMANDER...!
I'VE NEVER EVEN DREAMT OF THIS,
SO YOU'RE ACTUALLY HERE FOR YINHUA?
SONG GUI-XIANG
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
YINHUA LOVES YOU TOO!
IF SHE HEARS THIS, SHE'LL BE REALLY HAPPY!


SONG GUI-XIANG,
DON'T YOU EVEN MENTION THAT MATTER!
HOW UNREASON ABLE!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU HAVE TO DO THIS. DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU DON'T LOVE YINHUA ANYMORE NOW THAT SHE'S A HUMAN?
SHE ALREADY LOST TWO FIANCES...
WHAT?
THAT'S RIGHT! THAT'S WHY SHE DOESN'T DARE TO LOVE AGAIN.
BUT SINCE YOU'RE A CELESTIAL BEING, YOU WON'T BELIEVE SUCH GROUNDLESS HEARSAY, RIGHT?
BESIDES, BOTH OF YOU WERE ONCE IN LOVE
IF YOU UNDER-STAND, GET OUT!
SONG GUIXIANG!
I WON'T SPARE YOU IF YOU KEEP TALKING!
YOU ARE NOT TO LET ANY-ONE ELSE KNOW WHAT YOU'VE JUST HEARD.
FORGET WHAT HAS BEEN SAID.
!

YOU DON'T HAVE TIME LEFT.
HER LONGING FOR YOU CAN'T BE ERASED
HMPH
IT SEEMS THAT EVEN IF HER MEMORIES ARE ALL TAKEN AWAY,
.....
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT! I DID NOT HEAR ABOUT THAT MATTER !
WAS THAT THE SAME SMILE WORE WHEN YOU ERADICATED YINHUA'S FIANCES?
WHAT USE DO I HAVE FOR YOUR SARCASTIC SMILE?
!
AS TO WHY HIS MAJESTY GAVE SUCH AN ORDER... WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM YOURSELF?
I WAS ONLY FOLLOWING ORDERS

YIN-HUA!
GO LOOK FOR LIUTIAN!
IF IT'S LIKE THIS, YINHUA WILL ..
THIS IS GOOD NEWS.
LIAR!
WHAT'S WRONG! THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU!
NO...
WHY WOULD I LIE TO YOU?!
I HEARD THAT IN YOUR PREVIOUS LIFE, YOU WERE A FAIRY IN HEAVEN,
LIUTIAN ALSO LOVES YOU!
DON'T YOU BELIEVE ME?
I HEARD THIS WITH MY OWN EARS,
BUT FOR REASONS I DON'T KNOW, YOU WERE BANISHED TO EARTH, AND HE'S HERE TO BRING YOU BACK
LIUTIAN AND YOU WERE IN LOVE...


AH...!
!?

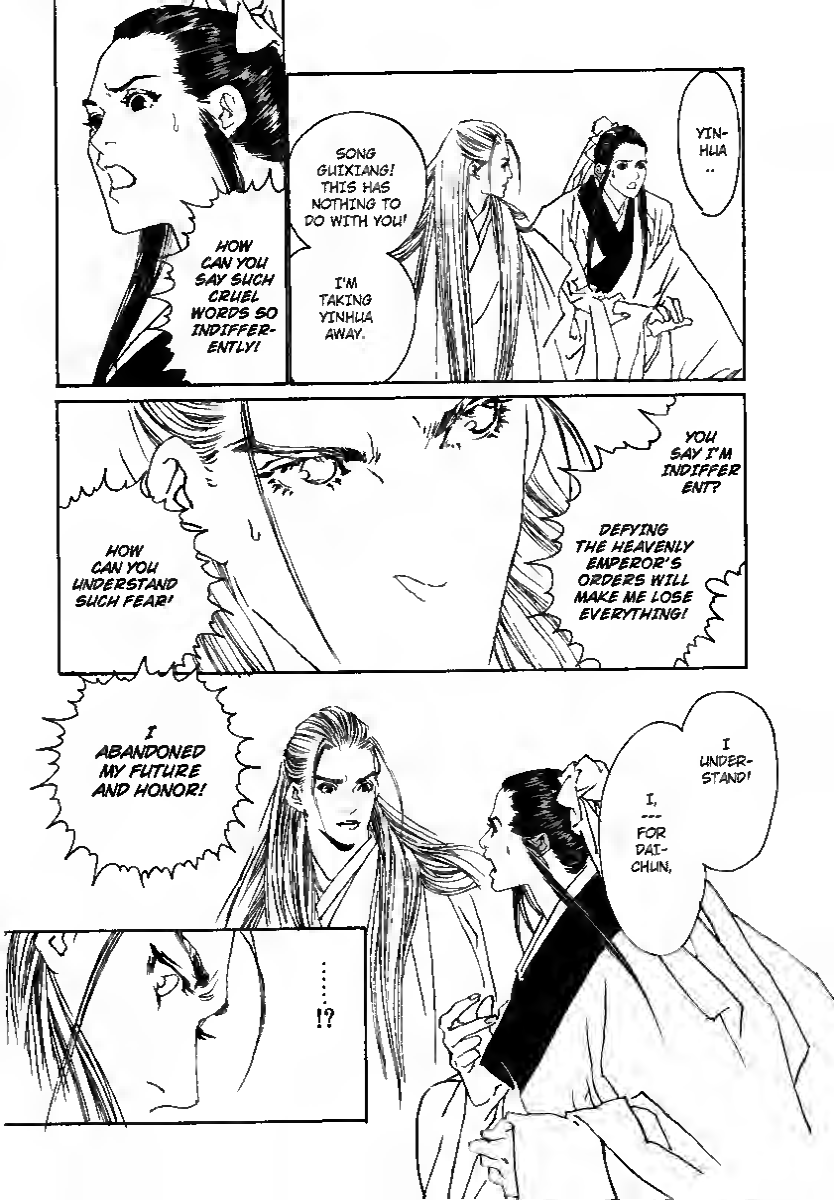
YIN-HUA?
I HEARD FROM GUI-XIANG-GE, YOU'RE HERE TO BRING ME BACK, RIGHT?
I... DON'T KNOW WHY, I FELT SO UNEASY,
BUT WHEN I HEARD YOU LOVED ME, THAT SENSE OF UNEASINESS DISAPPEARED
SONG GUI-XIANG!
YOU...!
OH! THIS IS WORTH CONGRATULATING!
THERE-FORE... I STARTED TO REMEM-BER
THE TWO OF US IN HEAVEN
BUT... I CAN'T RECALL THE REST

I'M INDEED HERE TO BRING YOU BACK
I'M BRINGING YOU BACK TO HEAVEN WITH ME,
YIN-HU
A,
WHAT?
DID I SAY ANYTHING WRONG?
TO BECOME THE HEAVENLY EMPEROR'S CONCUBINE
THE HEAVENLY EMPEROR'S... CONCUBINE?

I ABSOLUTELY REFUSE!
I REFUSE TO BECOME THE HEAVENLY EMPEROR'S CONCUBINE...
I REFUSE!
ITS NOT FOR YOURSELF ---
THAT YOU'RE BRING-ING ME BACK ---?
YINHUA,
STOP WAILING!

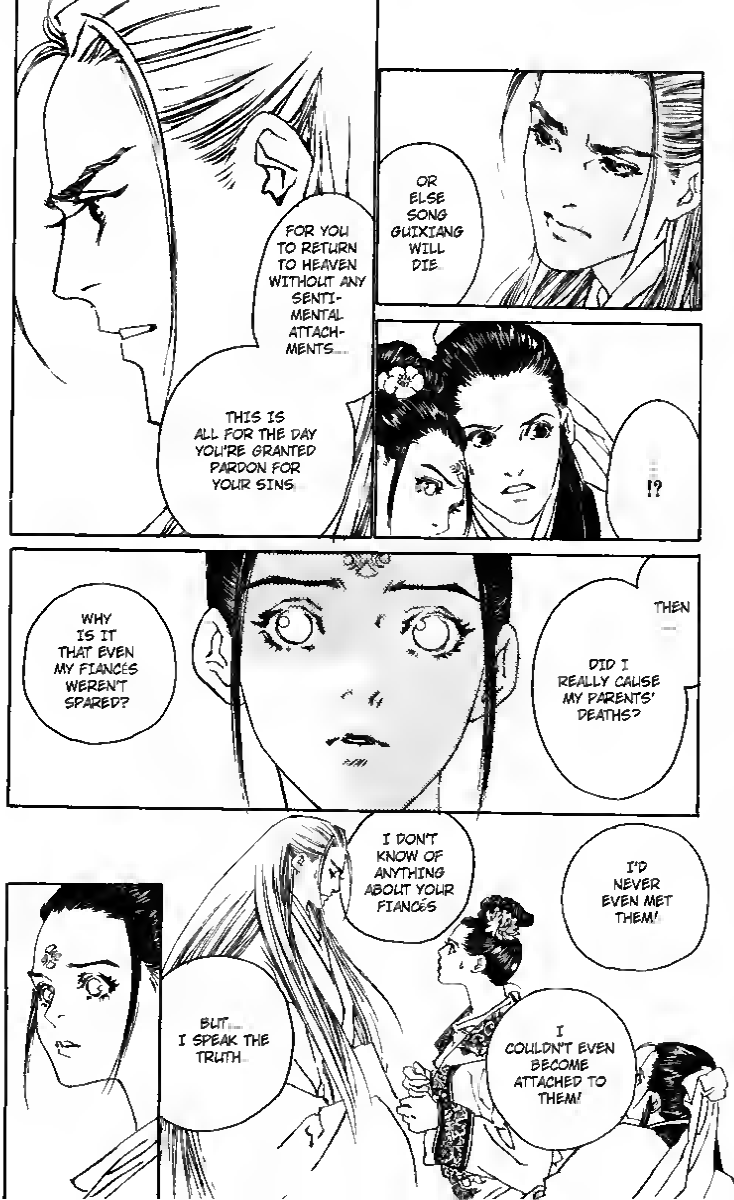
……!
SUCH SORROW
SUCH PAIN,
STILL, WHY CAN'T I SHED A SINGLE TEAR ...?

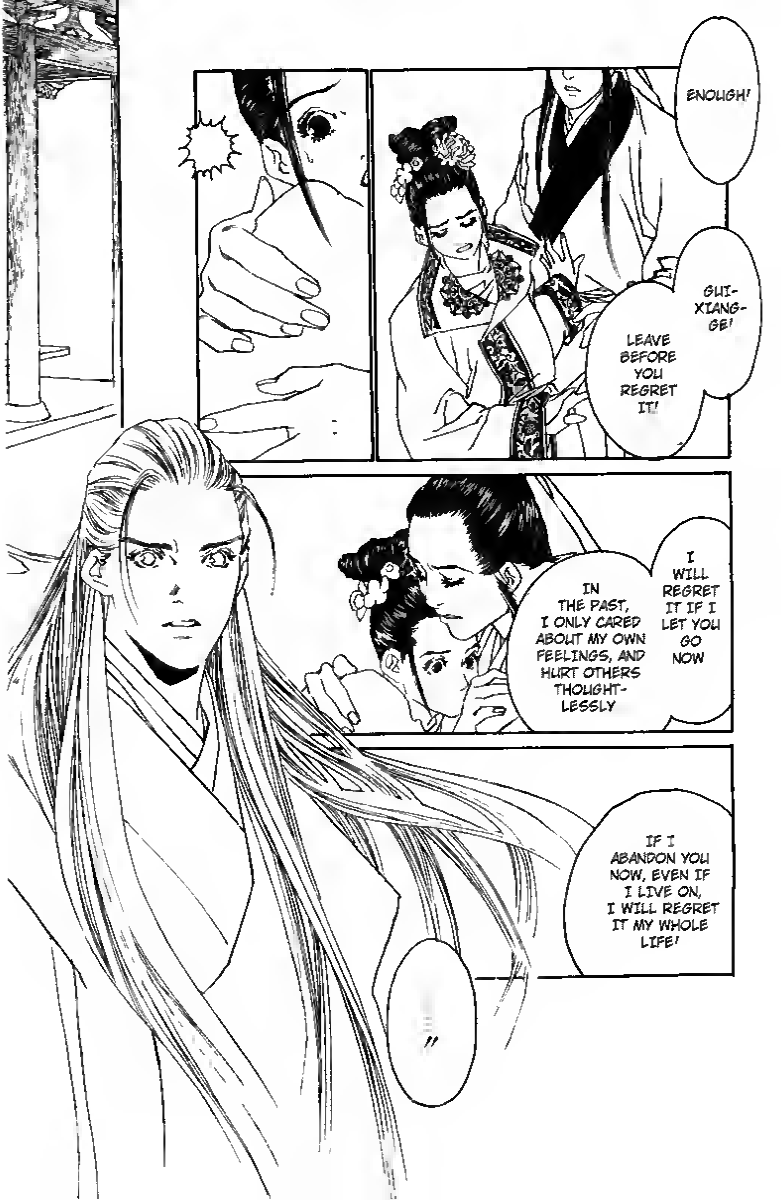
BECAUSE YOU HAD SHED TOO MANY TEARS BEFORE THE HEAVENLY EMPEROR
YOU GAINED THE FAVOR OF HIS MAJESTY TO BECOME HIS CONCUBINE, BUT YOU KEPT CRYING BEFORE HIM, AND THUS BANISHED TO EARTH.
YOUR TEARS WERE DEEMED INAUSPICIOUS TO HIS MAJESTY AND WERE SEALED.
THUS, ALTHOUGH REINCARNATED AS A HUMAN, YOU ARE STILL UNABLE TO SHED TEARS
DO YOU REMEMBER?
THEN WHAT ABOUT YOUR FEELINGS FOR ME?
--- THAT IS ALL IN THE PAST.

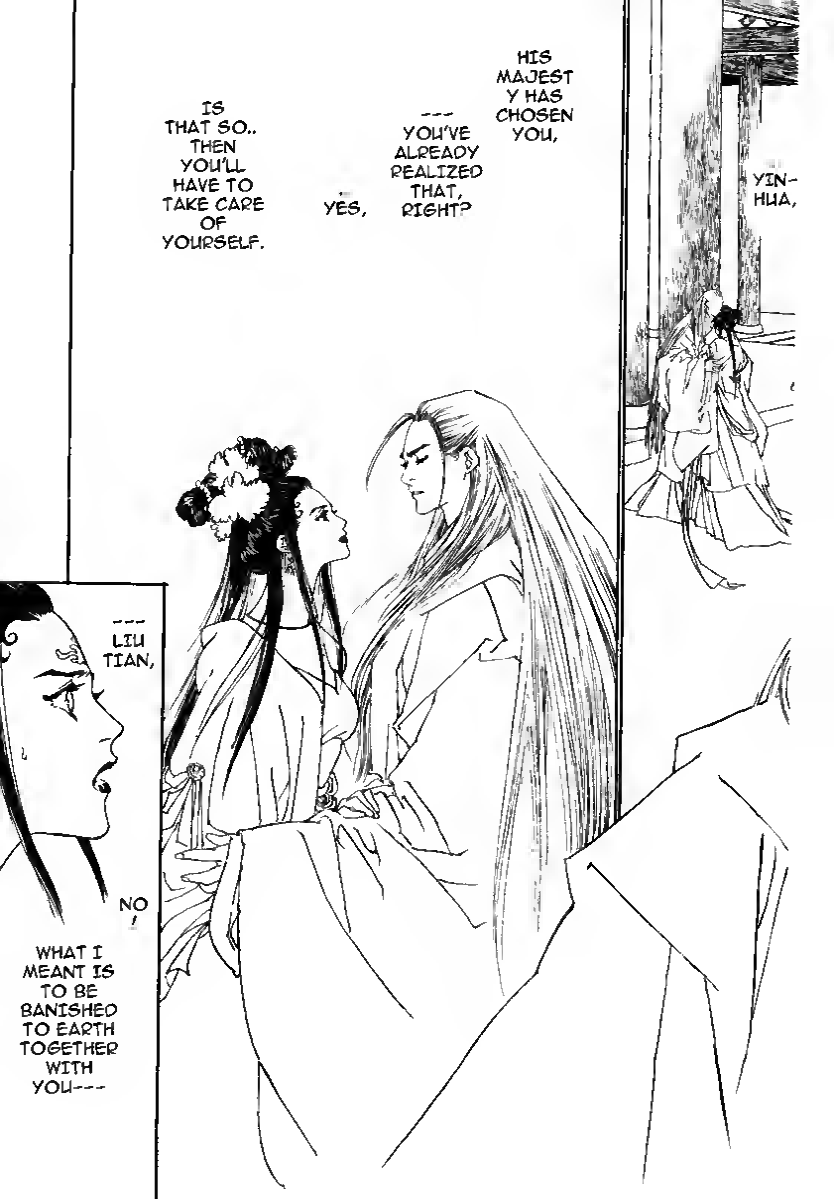

HOW CAN YOU SAY SUCH CRUEL WORDS SO INDIFFERENTLY!
SONG GUIXIANG! THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!
I'M TAKING YINHUA AWAY.
YIN-HUA ..
HOW CAN YOU UNDERSTAND SUCH FEAR!
DEFYING THE HEAVENLY EMPEROR'S ORDERS WILL MAKE ME LOSE EVERYTHING!
YOU SAY I'M INDIFFERENT?
I ABANDONED MY FUTURE AND HONOR!
I, --- FOR DAI-CHUN,
I UNDER-STAND!
.....!?

YIN-HUA,
YOU'VE BEEN SUFFER-ING AT THE HANDS OF THESE HEARTLESS HUMANS
AND CRYING WITHOUT TEARS IN SECRET, RIGHT?
YIN-HUA
YOU TREATED ME LIKE A BURDEN
I'M SORRY
YOU USED YOUR SMILE TO PRETEND YOU DON'T CARE, BUT I DIDN'T REALIZE...
I..
HOPE TO LET YOU...
BE RELEASED FROM THAT KIND OF PAIN!
RELEAS-ED?
YOU MEAN, IF I GO BACK TO HEAVEN, I CAN FIND MY HAPPI-NESS?

TAKING MY TEARS AWAY, NOT EVEN LETTING ME HAVE THE HAPPINESS OF AN ORDINARY HUMAN, WHO WAS THAT?
I DON'T BELIEVE THAT!
YOU SAY THOSE ON EARTH ARE HEARTLESS, BUT THOSE IN HEAVEN ARE NOT?
IN THIS WORLD, EVEN IF IT'S THE HUMANS WHO MAKE ME SAD, WHO WAS THE ONE WHO BANISHED ME HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE?
GET AWAY FROM THAT MAN
AS LONG AS YINHUA'S NOT WI-LLING, I WON'T HAND HER OVER TO YOU!
THAT... THAT'S RIGHT!
NO!

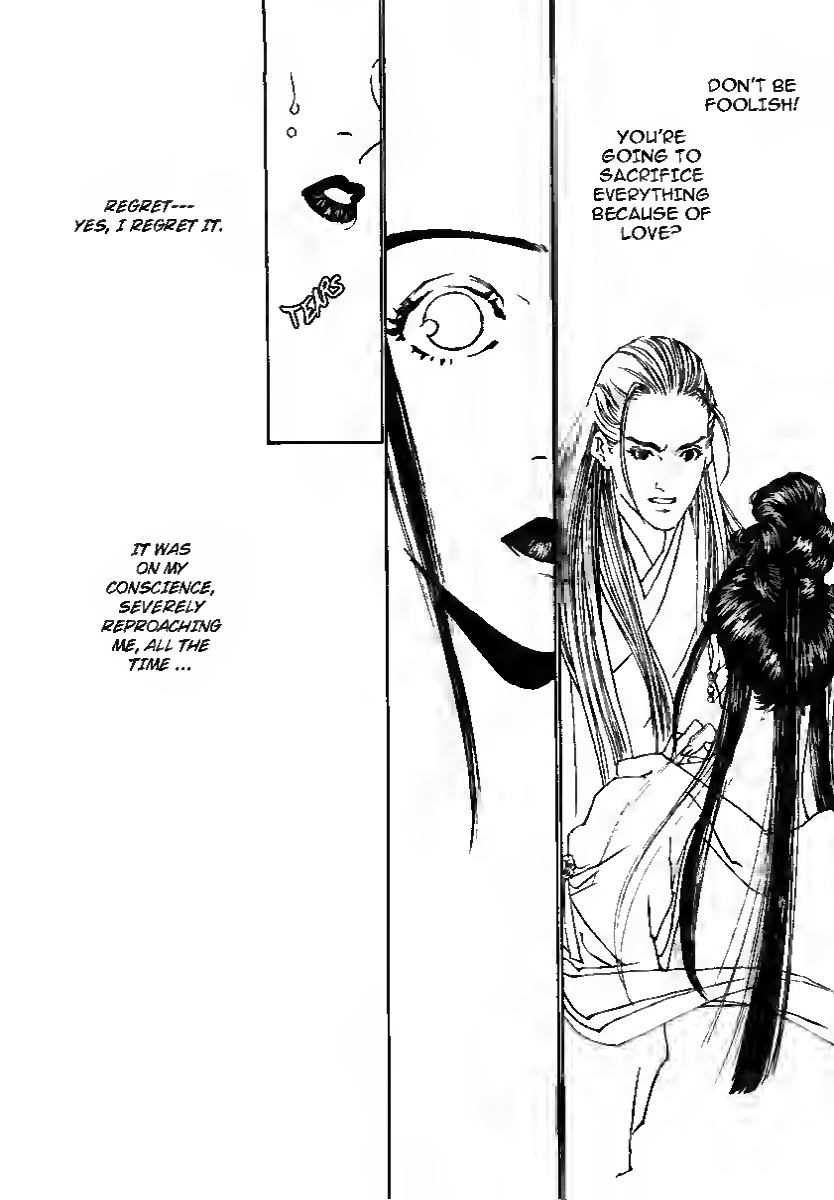

FOR YOU TO RETURN TO HEAVEN WITHOUT ANY SENTI-MENTAL ATTACH-MENTS...
THIS IS ALL FOR THE DAY YOU'RE GRANTED PARDON FOR YOUR SINS
OR ELSE SONG GUIXIANG WILL DIE
!?
WHY IS IT THAT EVEN MY FIANCÉS WEREN'T SPARED?
THEN... DID I REALLY CAUSE MY PARENTS' DEATHS?
I DON'T KNOW OF ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR FIANCÉS
I'D NEVER EVEN MET THEM!
BUT... I SPEAK THE TRUTH
I COULDN'T EVEN BECOME ATTACHED TO THEM!

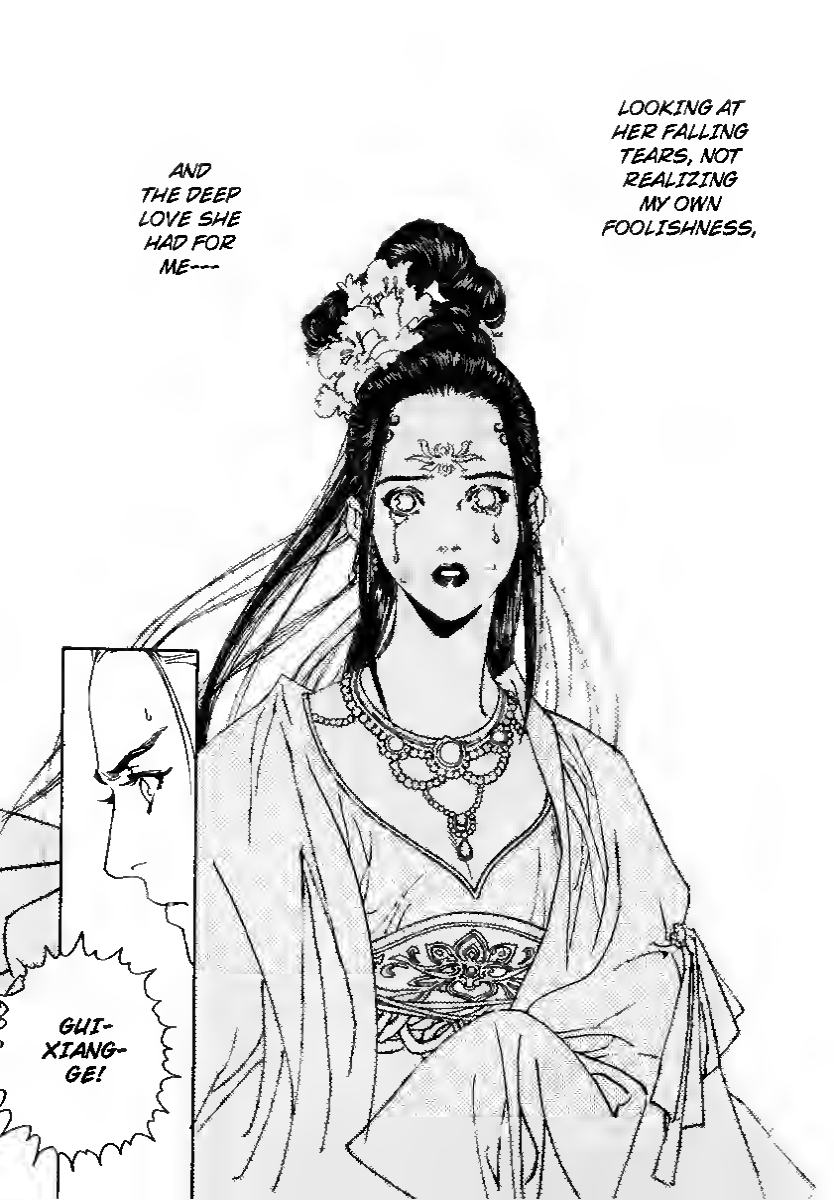

ENOUGH!
GUI-XIANG-GE!
LEAVE BEFORE YOU REGRET IT!
I WILL REGRET IT IF I LET YOU GO NOW
IN THE PAST, I ONLY CARED ABOUT MY OWN FEELINGS, AND HURT OTHERS THOUGHT-LESSLY
IF I ABANDON YOU NOW, EVEN IF I LIVE ON, I WILL REGRET IT MY WHOLE LIFE!
"

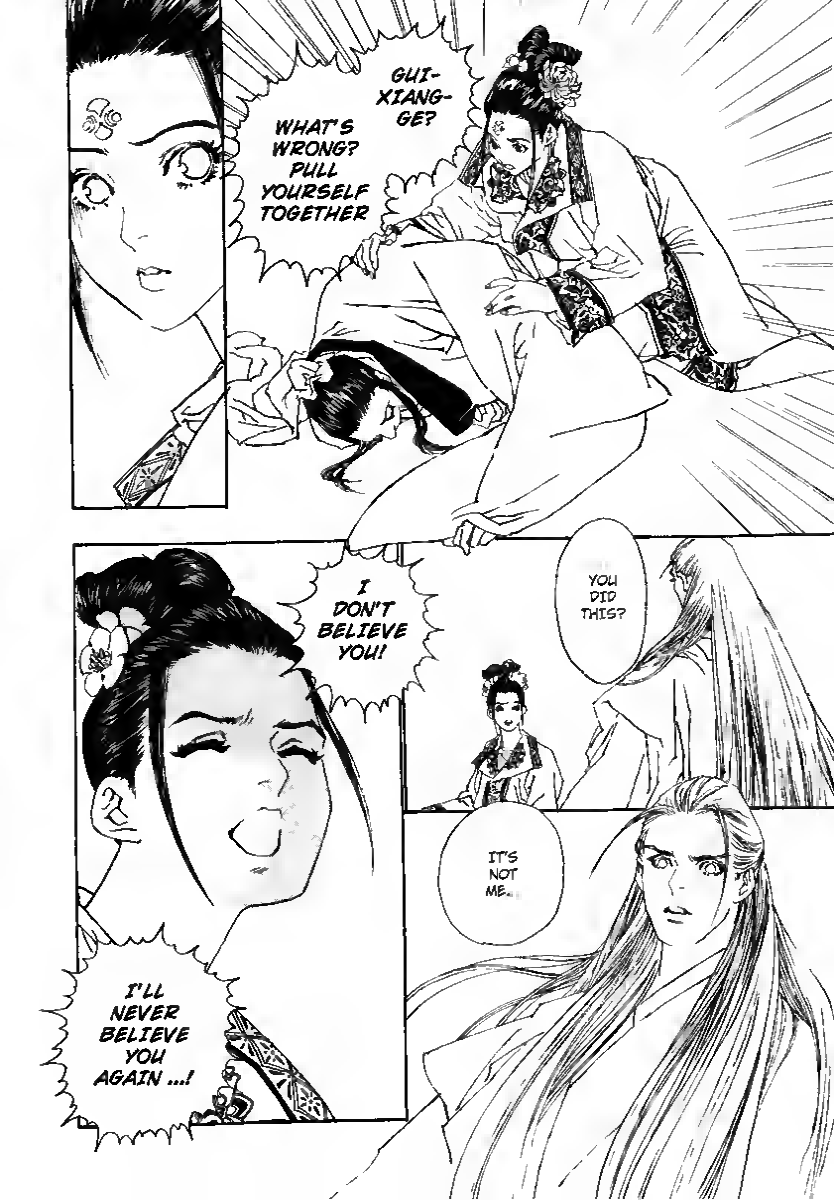

YIN-HUA,
HIS MAJESTY HAS CHOSEN YOU,

YOU'VE ALREADY REALIZED THAT, RIGHT?
YES,
IS THAT SO.. THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.

LIU TIAN,
NO!
WHAT I MEANT IS TO BE BANISHED TO EARTH TOGETHER WITH YOU---


DON'T BE FOOLISH!
YOU'RE GOING TO SACRIFICE EVERYTHING BECAUSE OF LOVE?
REGRET--- YES, I REGRET IT.
TEARS
IT WAS ON MY CONSCIENCE, SEVERELY REPROACHING ME, ALL THE TIME ...


LOOKING AT HER FALLING TEARS, NOT REALIZING MY OWN FOOLISHNESS,
AND THE DEEP LOVE SHE HAD FOR ME---
GUI-XIANG-GE!


GUI-XIANG-GE?
WHAT'S WRONG? PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER
YOU DID THIS?
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!
IT'S NOT ME.
I'LL NEVER BELIEVE YOU AGAIN ...!

DON'T WORRY, SHE ONLY FAINTED.
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE SO TROUBLE-SOME.
ALL RIGHT, LET'S MAKE USE OF THIS CHANCE TO ---
---WHAT ABOUT SONG GUI-XIANG ?
YIN-HUA?
WHAT ABOUT THAT MAN?
HIS LIFESPAN IS NOT SUPPOSED TO END NOW, YET YOU KILLED HIM, THAT'S TOO VICIOUS!!
ISN'T THIS WHAT YOU WISHED FOR?
WHAT'S DONE IS DONE, SO WHAT BESIDES,
WHEN ANY MAN GETS NEAR THIS FAIRY, YOU'D LOOK AT HIM ---

WITH SUCH INTENSE JEALOUSY!
I WON'T TELL THE HEAVENLY EMPEROR.
BUT--- EVEN IF I DON'T TELL, HE WILL STILL HAVE EXPECTED THIS.
... COMMANDER!
REGARDING YOUR MANY "SECRET" DESCENTS TO EARTH, HIS MAJESTY HAS LONG BEEN SUSPICIOUS.
YIN-HUA'S FIANCÉS DIED BECAUSE OF THIS...
TO DISCREETLY WARN THE ONE WHO LOVES THIS FLOWER FAIRY WHAT KIND OF FATE HE'LL FACE
.....
I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO SYMPATHIZE WITH THIS HUMAN
PERHAPS YOU SAW IN THAT MAN WHO TRIED TO PROTECT YINHUA,
YOUR OWN UNFULFILLED DESIRE TO PROTECT HER...
WHAT HAVE I BEEN SEEING WITH THESE EYES?
THE HEARTLESS-NESS IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
ENVOY, TIME IS RUNNING OUT...

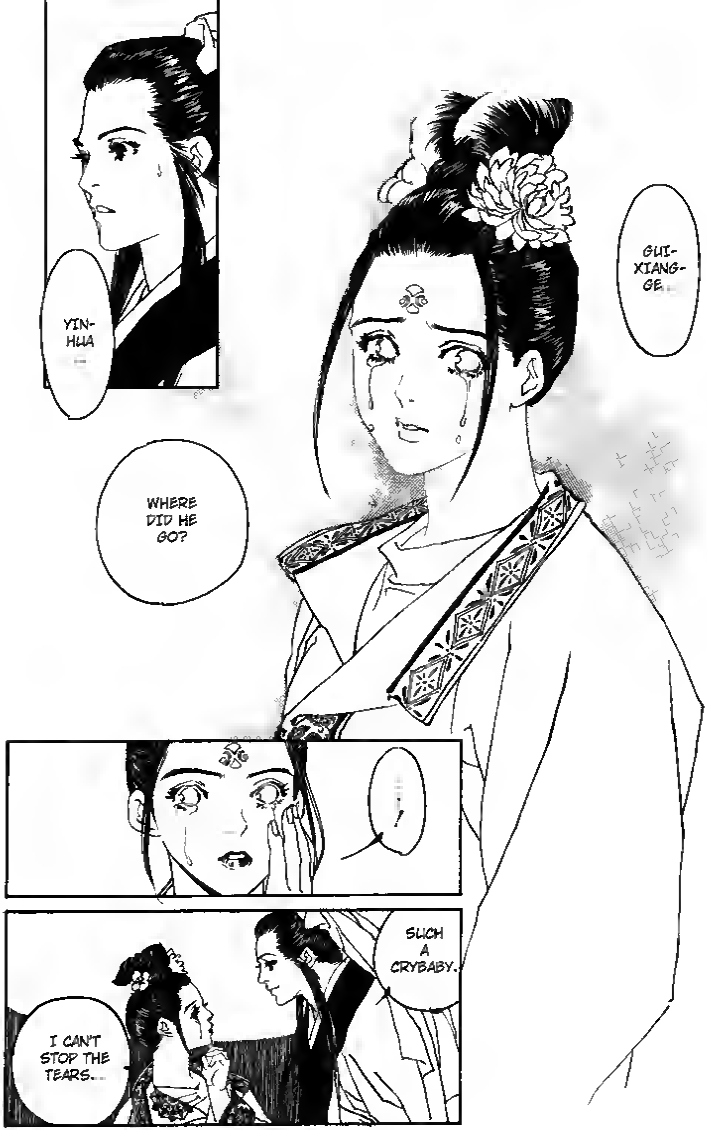
※復命＝命令を受けて処理したことの経過・結果を報告すること。

SONG GUI-XIANG,
---YOU'RE AWAKE
.....!?
WHAT DO YOU PLANNING
I WON'T LET YOU TAKE YINHUA AWAY!
AT LEAST LET ME SAY GOODBYE TO HER PROPERLY
I'LL RETURN TO HEAVEN ALONE.
...EH?
I HAVE TO BREAK THE SPELL THE COMMANDER CAST ON YINHUA BEFORE HE REPORTS THIS TO HIS MAJESTY.
THIS WAY, HER NAME WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE HEAVENLY REGISTER, AND THE CELESTIAL BEINGS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FIND HER

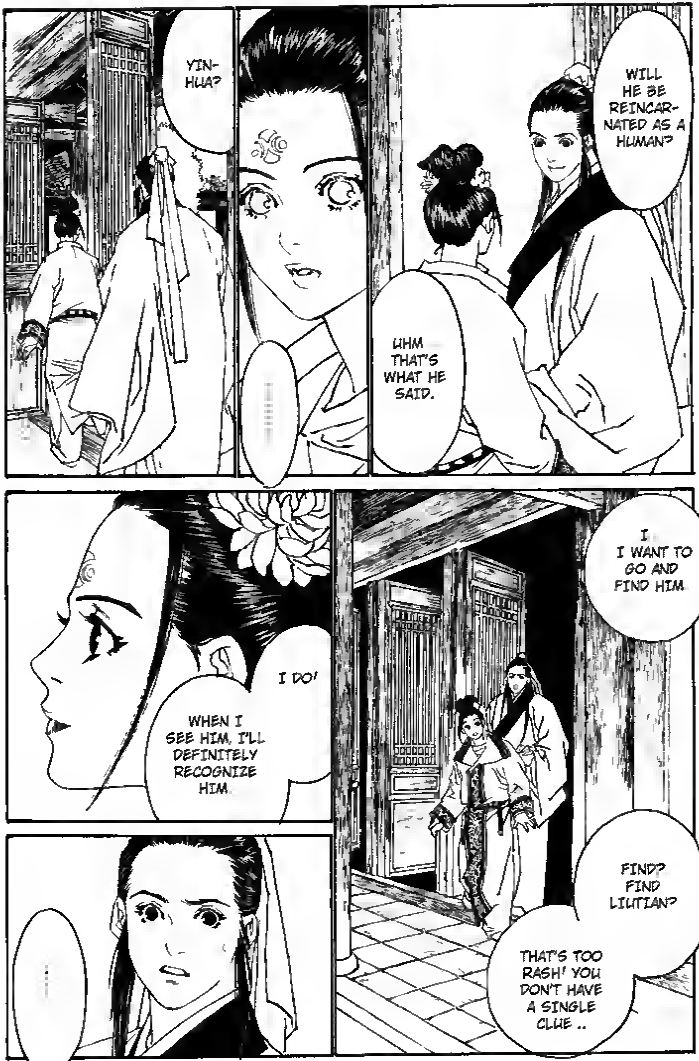
WHAT SHOULD WE DO...?!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST CONTINUE LIVING ON EARTH?
YIN-HUA WILL BE VERY HAPPY TOO
OF COURSE NOT.
I'LL BE PUNISHED.
THIS IS IT ALL RIGHT TO DO THIS?
PERHAPS I'LL REMAIN A CELESTIAL BEING, OR MAYBE I'LL BE REINCARNATED AS A HUMAN
NO MATTER WHICH CONSEQUENCE, IT WAS WHAT I FEARED MOST IN THE PAST.
I'LL PROBABLY BE EXILED FROM HEAVEN.
ANY CELESTIAL BEING THAT REMAINS ON EARTH WILL BE DISCOVERED AT ONCE
YINHUA WILL BE TAKEN BACK TOO.
HOWEVER, IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME NOW.
THIS IS ALL THANKS TO YOU, SONG GUIXIANG...
THIS WILL MAKE EVERYTHING MEANINGLESS.

I SEE WITH MY OWN EYES THE PAIN YINHUA SUFFERED AMONGST THE COLD-HEARTED HUMANS,
AND MY FEAR AND HATRED TOWARDS EARTH INCREASED WITH EACH DAY
BUT... IT WAS HEAVEN WHO FORCED YINHUA TO FACE SUCH A FATE... I'VE ONLY JUST REALIZED THIS...
I'VE LEARNED A LOT FROM YOU
THERE ARE HUMANS LIKE YOU ON EARTH,
AND BESIDES, YIN-HUA'S HERE TOO,
SO IT'S NO WONDER THE WORLD HERE MAKES PEOPLE RELUCTANT TO LEAVE!

YINHUA! YOU'VE FINALLY WOKEN UP!
DO YOU FEEL UNWELL ANY-WHERE?
GUI-XIANG-GE...?
...HUA
YINHUA
YIN-HUA!
WHERE'S LIUTIAN...?
I SAW GUIXIANG-GE COLLAPSE,
AND I THOUGHT THAT LIUTIAN KILLED YOU...
!
I...
RIGHT!

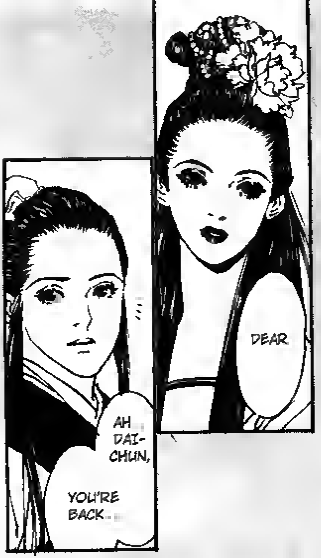

YIN-HUA...
GUI-XIANG-GE...
WHERE DID HE GO?
...!
SUCH A CRYBABY.
I CAN'T STOP THE TEARS...

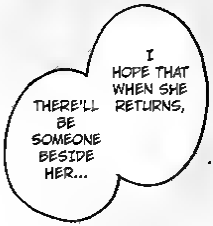
THE TEARS FALL UPON HEARING LIUTIAN'S NAME, MOST OF THEM ARE SHED FOR HIM.
THESE MUST BE THE TEARS ACCUMULATED OVER YOUR SIXTEEN
IT'S LIUTIAN WHO HELPED GET THEM BACK
THE PROLONGED LONELINESS OF SEPARATION,
THE SORROW OF SEPARATION AGAIN ,
THE HAPPINESS OF REUNION... THE PAIN AND HATRED OF KNOWING THE TRUTH,
AND THE TEARS HE WAS UNABLE TO SHED IN HEAVEN, SHOULD BE RELEASED AS A NEWBORN BABY'S CRIES!
I THINK THAT SOMEWHERE IN HIS TEARLESS HEART, HE MUST BE GRIEVING TOO!
THE FIRST TEARS HE WILL SHED AS A HUMAN MUST BE FOR YINHUA....


YIN-HUA?
WILL HE BE REINCAR-NATED AS A HUMAN?
UHM THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.
I DO!
WHEN I SEE HIM, I'LL DEFINITELY RECOGNIZE HIM.
I I WANT TO GO AND FIND HIM
FIND? FIND LIUTIAN?
THAT'S TOO RASH! YOU DON'T HAVE A SINGLE CLUE ..

I KNOW IT WON'T BE EASY,
BUT GUIXIANG-GE, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, I'LL BE FINE.
BECAUSE... WHEN I FEEL SAD, I CAN CRY AS MUCH AS I WANT.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER I FIND HIM.
BUT... NO MATTER WHAT, I WANT TO SEE HIM AGAIN... TO SEE LIUTIAN

SHE REALLY LEFT.
EH?
ALL BY HERSELF...


DEAR
AH DAI-CHUN,
YOU'RE BACK...


I HOPE THAT WHEN SHE RETURNS,
THERE'LL BE SOMEONE BESIDE HER...

Ransom

by Sumeragi Natsuki

Wright Celestial

Translated by : Mtz
TL Checked by : Usako
Edited by : kaitouace
Quality checked by : Maverick

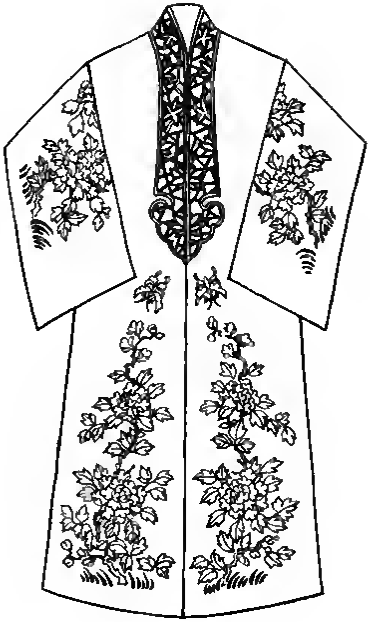
Renson

by Sumeragi Natsuki

Wright Cafe.com

Translated by : JingYun
Editted by : kaitouace
Quality checked by : Maverick

Fox
Coquetry



Cui is from Xizhou,

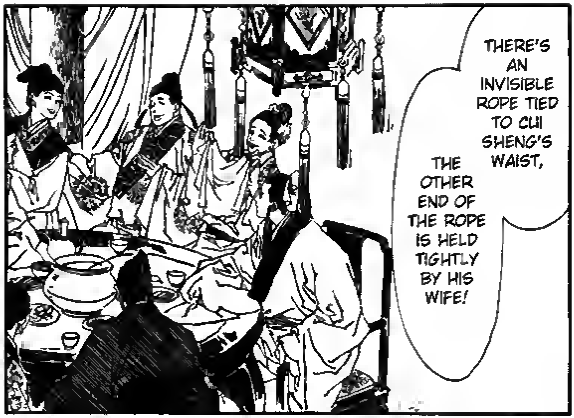
He managed to pass the imperial examinations at a young age, his talent was recognized by a high-ranking official and was offered his daughter's hand-in-marriage.

Cui was the envy of all his friends at the beginning.

I HEARD THAT CUI'S WIFE ALREADY HAD HER EYES ON HIM AT THE CELEBRATORY BANQUET
BY RELYING ON HIS FATHER-IN-LAW'S POWER, ACHIEVING A HIGH-RANKED POSITION IS GOING TO BE EASY

She even sent her trusted servants to spy on him.
She did not allow him to speak to other women in public. In the end, even speaking to the servant girls and visiting brothels were forbidden.
However, Cui himself had been feeling down lately, because his wife was a very jealous woman.

Meeking words like these were speken behind his baek.

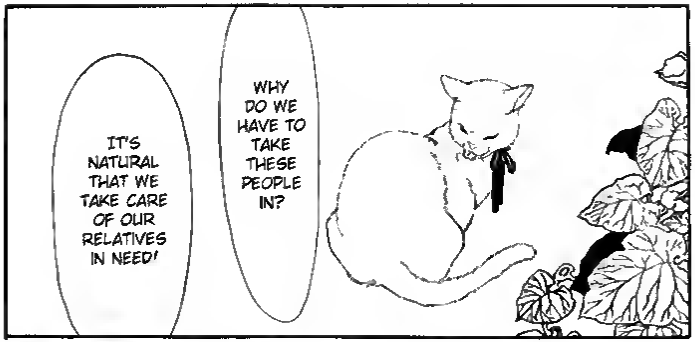


Before leng, Cui's friends' envy turned into mockery.

As Hanzhong was in turmeil due to war, he had come seeking help from his nephew.

But he couldn't rebut them either. One dey, Cui's uncle from Henzhe ng visited.

They made Cui Sheng eshemed and engry, he couldn't bear it.



Actually, Cui's resentment towards his uncle was no less than his wife's.

The reason for Cui's wife's unhappiness was with the uncle's family members.

Although Cui's wife was very reluctant, she still accepted her husband's sentimental way of thinking.

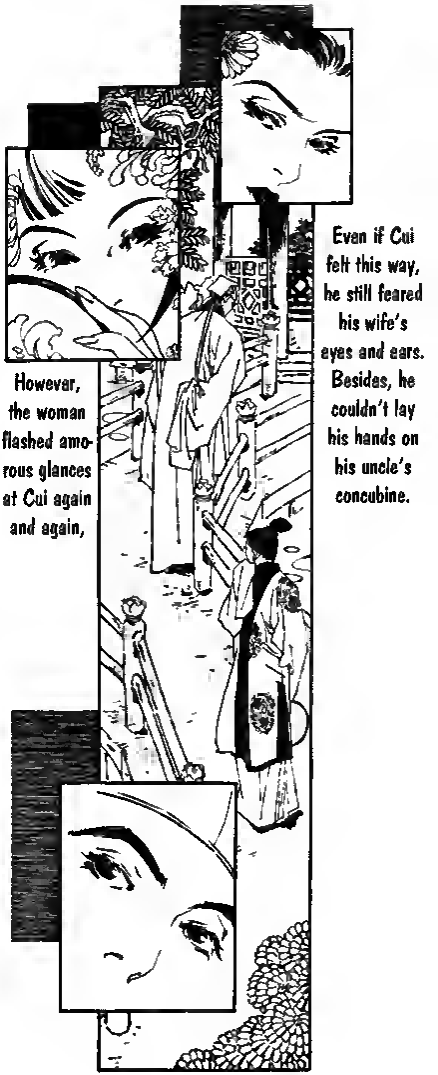
But even if Cui was unhappy within, he still envied his uncle,

YOU COME EMPTY-HANDED ASKING FOR MY HELP, YET YOU DON'T HAVE ANY INTENTION OF SENDING SOME OF THEM AWAY?
YES, THEY'RE ALL MY WIVES AND CONCUBINES!

HAVING ALL THE POWER AND RICHES, YET UNABLE TO ENJOY LIFE AMONGST THE FLOWERS.
THE MOST TRAGIC THING THAT CAN HAPPEN IN THIS WORLD IS TO MARRY A JEALOUS WOMAN,

A FACE I'VE NOT SEEN BEFORE
SHE'S PROBABLY ONE OF UNCLE'S CONCUBINES!
IT SEEMS THAT SHE'S INTERESTED IN ME.

and the two finally slept together.


Even if Cui felt this way, he still feared his wife's eyes and ears. Besides, he couldn't lay his hands on his uncle's concubine.
However, the woman flashed amorous glances at Cui again and again,

Besides, Cui knew his own house like the back of his hand, thus his rendezvous with Meiniang were not discovered.

Like her name, the woman was lovely, and Cui continued to meet her in secret.

Because of the large number of people in her house now, Cui's wife couldn't watch every single person,

Eventually, Cui's wife had to do something, and when the physician came Cui was so weak that he couldn't even get out of bed.

The merry days spent with Meiniang caused Cui to view his wife as the obstacle to his enjoyment of life, the life he had before he married. He ignored her concern and at the same time, blamed his weakened body on her constant nagging,

It was a month later when Cui's wife noticed the change in him.

As he stroked his whitened beard, he said:

The physician shook his head after checking Cui's pulse,

By than, Cui was already entranced,

Cui's wife panicked, and in her haste, loudly asked him if he had come into contact with anything suspicious.

Subsequently, Meinieng appeared.

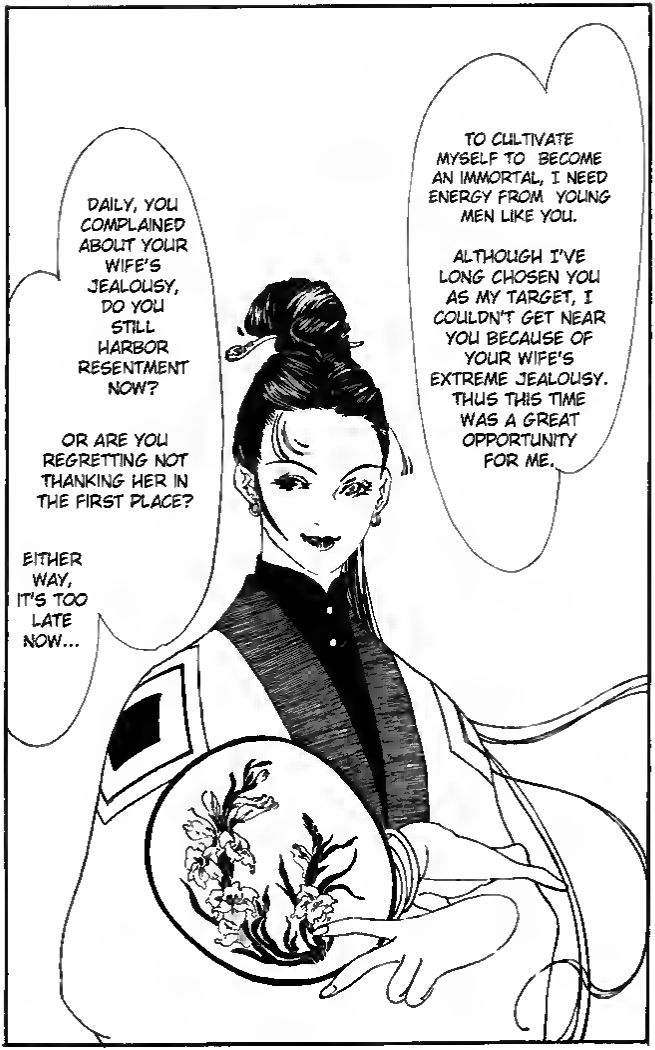
Cui thought that his unfaithful act had been exposed, and this would cause Meinieng to be beaten by his wife and uncle. Cui pitied Meinieng and only moved his lips wordlessly.

So his wife asked again,

to get her to leave quickly.

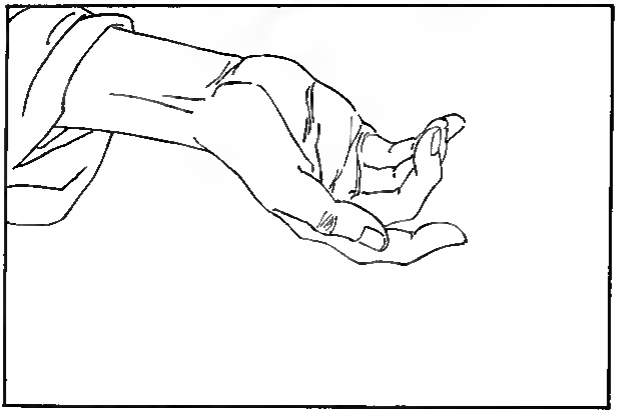
Cui frantically winked to signal her,

Cui's uncle said, with eyes widening,
WHO IS THIS LADY?
Meiniang ignored him and with a gentle smile, said:
LORD CUI, YOU DON'T HAVE TO PROTECT ME.
OUR FATED TIME TOGETHER HAS ENDED.
Cui was even more shocked:
UNCLE! ISN'T SHE ONE OF YOUR CONCUBINES?!
I'VE NEVER SEEN HER.

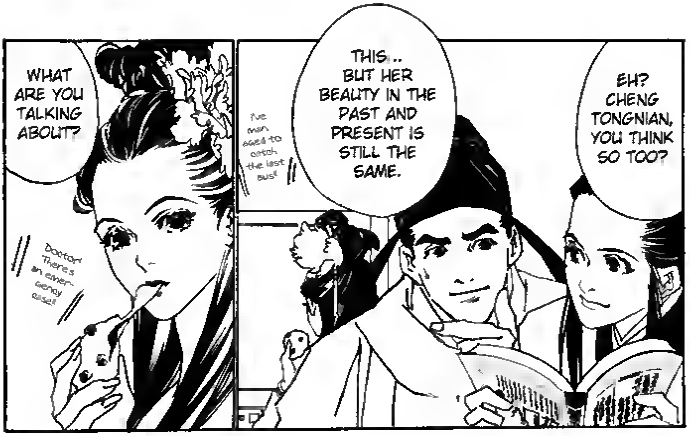

TO CULTIVATE MYSELF TO BECOME AN IMMORTAL, I NEED ENERGY FROM YOUNG MEN LIKE YOU.
ALTHOUGH I'VE LONG CHOSEN YOU AS MY TARGET, I COULDN'T GET NEAR YOU BECAUSE OF YOUR WIFE'S EXTREME JEALOUSY. THUS THIS TIME WAS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR ME.
DAILY, YOU COMPLAINED ABOUT YOUR WIFE'S JEALOUSY, DO YOU STILL HARBOR RESENTMENT NOW?
OR ARE YOU REGRETTING NOT THANKING HER IN THE FIRST PLACE?
EITHER WAY, IT'S TOO LATE NOW...

As she spoke, the lady returned to her original form, and disappeared in the blink of an eye.

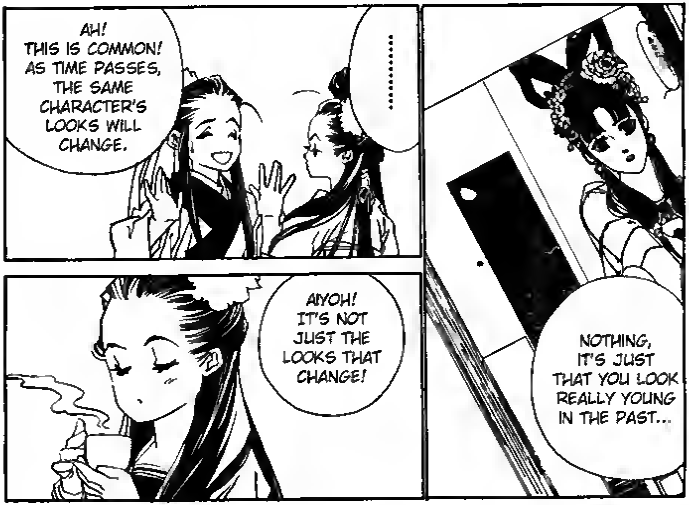
A fox's resounding howl could be heard from afar, seeming to mock the clueless humans.



In that same moment, Cui's hand also fell to his bedside.


WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
Doctor! There's an owner-gendy case!
I've never seen so much the last two!
THIS... BUT HER BEAUTY IN THE PAST AND PRESENT IS STILL THE SAME.
EH? CHENG TONGNIAN, YOU THINK SO TOO?

Tales of Hana no Koe


AH! THIS IS COMMON! AS TIME PASSES, THE SAME CHARACTER'S LOOKS WILL CHANGE.
.....
AIYOH! IT'S NOT JUST THE LOOKS THAT CHANGE!
NOTHING, IT'S JUST THAT YOU LOOK REALLY YOUNG IN THE PAST...

EH?
TO ME, YOUR CHARACTER IS GETTING MORE USELESS..
.....
THIS IS AN UNLUCKY MANGA BAD THINGS WILL HAPPEN IF YOU READ IT !!
WHY?
AH!
NO! DON'T READ THAT AT ALL COSTS!
WHAT KIND OF NON-SENSE IS THIS!
SOMEONE WANTED THE TOPIC TO BE AUTHOR'S SINGLE VOLUME EDITION, BUT THE AUTHOR SUDDENLY WENT BERSERK AND STRANGLED THE PERSON....
It's not just one person!
IT'S TOO EXAG-GERATED! I ONLY TOUCHED HIS NECK WITH MY HANDS...
WAH! AH!
BUT... HEARING RUCHUN SAY THIS, I HAVE HEARD OF THIS BEFORE!
← YY GENZAI NO SUME

IT'S REALLY HARD TO UNDERSTAND! ISN'T SHE PROUD OF HER JOB!
IT SEEMS TO BE BECAUSE IT'S TOO EMBARRASSING...
WHY DID SUCH A TRAGIC THING HAPPEN?
BROTHER-IN-LAW! YOU'RE TOO NAIVE!
THIS ROOM IS THE TERRITORY OF THE AUTHOR!
BUT, WON'T IT BE ALL RIGHT IF WE DON'T READ IT IN FRONT OF THE AUTHOR?
CONFISCATED!
I DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED!
EVEN THOUGH IT'S LIKE THIS, THAT MANGA CONTAINS MEMORIES OF DAICHUN AND ME...
I WANT TO FLIP THROUGH IT OCCASIONALLY!

IS IT HERE
THE BOOK-SHOP SEEMS TO HAVE ONLY A FEW COPIES OF SUMERAGI NATSUKI'S BOOKS...
SINCE I CAN'T READ IT AT HOME, I'LL GO TO THE BOOK-SHOP TO READ!
BOOK SHOP
AH, EXCUSE ME, CAN YOU PASS IT TO ME AFTER YOU'RE DONE...
HMM?
AH...! LIUTIAN?
SONG GUIXIANG ~~~~~!!

AH... YOU READ THAT STORY?
IT'S JUST BECAUSE OF YOUR WEAK WILLPOWER AND INDECISIVE-NESS THAT FORCED YOU TO CHOOSE THIS PATH!
SAYING HIGH-SOUNDING THINGS LIKE "I GAVE UP MY FUTURE AND GLORY FOR DAICHIN!"
WHY, WHY ARE YOU SO ANGRY?
YOU!
SIGH
I ALSO SUFFERED A LOT!
LIUTIAN WAS ALSO IN THE SAME POSITION AS ME, YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND MY FEELINGS...
BUT, BUT I DIDN'T LIE...
Cough cough!
YES.
Even if you read it at the bookshop, that book is still an unlucky book.
WAAAHH!!
SOMEONE LIKE YOU WHO PUTS WOMEN ON END AND GLORY AND RICHES ON THE OTHER END OF THE SCALE! WHO'S IN THE SAME POSITION AS YOU!
IT, IT HURTS!

Tale of Hana no Kae / End